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# C A T E C H I S M

OF THE

## H I S T O R Y

OF THE

# UNITED STATES:

WITH A

### CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE OF AMERICAN HISTORY,

*From its Discovery in 1492 to the year 1854.*

ILLUSTRATED WITH ENGRAVINGS.

DESIGNED TO ACCOMPANY IRVING'S SERIES OF CATECHISMS

*Adapted to the use of Schools in the United States.*

By M. J. KERNEY, Esq.,

*Author of Compendium of Ancient and Modern History, &c., &c., &c.*

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"There is nothing that can better deserve our patronage than the promotion of science and literature. Knowledge is in every country the surest basis of public happiness: and in one in which the measures of government revolve their impression so immediately from the sense of the community as in ours, it is proportionably essential.—Washington.

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*Third Enlarged and Revised Edition*

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BALTIMORE:

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## ADVERTISEMENT

THE THIRD REVISED EDITION

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THE peculiar merits of this little History are to be found in the accuracy of its details, and in the adaptation of its style and arrangement to the capacity of that class of learners for which it was designed. In these particulars it is far superior to any work of the kind now before the public. But the favor with which it has been received, and its extensive circulation, are the best comments on its merits. Ten thousand copies have been disposed of within two years.

These indications of public approbation have induced the publishers to spare neither labor nor expense to render the work still more deserving of that liberal patronage which has been already extended to it. The present edition has been carefully revised and considerably enlarged; and in order to render the work more interesting and attractive, a number of appropriate and instructive engravings have been introduced. These improvements will add much to its merits, and render the present far superior to the previous editions.

BALTIMORE February 10, 1854.

## PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

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THE following little work is designed for children about to commence the study of History. It has been compiled at the request of the publishers, to be used in connexion with Irving's highly popular series of catechisms. The plan of the work is similar to that adopted by Dr. Irving. The catechetical form of instruction is now admitted by the most experienced teachers to be the best adapted to the nature and capacity of children—a system by which they will acquire a knowledge of a science in less time than by any other.

As an introductory work, the following catechism will be found to possess many advantages, particularly for that class of learners for which it is designed. It presents to the minds of the young a clear and concise view of the most interesting and important events of the history of their own country. The chronological table will render them familiar with the dates of the most important transactions, and serve as an excellent method of exercising their memory.



# CONTENTS.

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	Page
ADVERTISEMENT to Third Edition.....	11
PREFACE to First Edition.....	17
INTRODUCTION.....	20
<b>CHAP.</b>	
I. Discovery and Antiquities of America.....	11
II. The Settlement of Virginia.....	17
III. The Settlement of the New England States..	20
IV. The Settlement of the Middle and Southern States .....	24
V. The French War, and Conquest of Canada...	28
VI. The Causes of the Revolution.....	32
VII. The Revolutionary War.....	35
VIII. The Revolutionary War—Continued.....	40
IX. The Revolutionary War—Continued.....	48
X. The Revolution—Concluded.....	51
XI. Adoption of the Constitution of the United States—Difficulties with France, &c.....	55
XII. The Late War with England.....	63
XIII. The Late War with England—Concluded...	68
XIV. The National Bank, &c.....	71
XV. War with Mexico—Causes of the War—The Battle of Palo Alto—Battle of Resaca de la Palma—Battle of Monterey—Battle of Buena Vista.....	77
XVI. War with Mexico, Continued—General Scott —Surrender of Vera Cruz—Battle of Cerro Gordo—Battle of Contreras—Battle of Chu- ribusco—Surrender of the city of Mexico..	84

	Page
General Questions on the Constitution of the United States .....	91
General Questions on the Constitutions and Governments of the principal States of the Union	91
Declaration of Independence.....	11
Table showing the birth-place and age of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence.....	11
Chronological table of the Presidents and other Principal officers, since the adoption of the Constitution.....	117
A chronological table of American history from the discovery in 1492 to the year 185 .....	121

# A C A T E C H I S M

OF THE

## History of the United States

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### INTRODUCTION.

Q. WHAT is History?

A. History is a written narrative of past events.

Q. What are the divisions of History?

A. History is divided into Ancient and Modern; which is also subdivided into Civil, Sacred and Profane.

Q. What do you understand by Ancient History?

A. Ancient History, is an account of all events, that have taken place from the Creation of the world to the birth of Christ.

Q. What is Modern History?

A. Modern History embraces an account of all events, from the birth of Christ to the present time.

Q. What is Civil History?

A. Civil History is an account of the rise, continuance, and fall of empires, kingdoms, and states

Q. What is Sacred History?

A. Sacred History is that, which is contained in the Sacred Scriptures.

Q. What is Profane History?

A. Profane History is properly the history of fabulous gods, and heroes of antiquity.

Q. Which is the most ancient history?

A. The most ancient history, is that contained in the Old Testament; which gives an account of the Creation of the world, the fall of our first parents, &c.

Q. How many years from the Creation of the world to the birth of Christ?

A. It is commonly said to be four thousand and four years.

Q. How is Ancient History distinguished?

A. It is distinguished for the rise and fall of the four great Empires: Assyria, Persia, Greece and Rome.

Q. For what is Modern History distinguished?

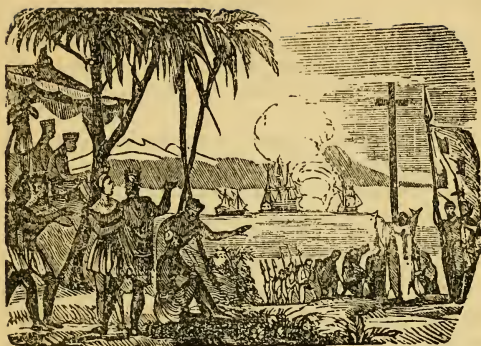
A. Modern History is distinguished for the invention of gunpowder, the discovery of America, and the invention of the art of printing.

Q. What are the Middle Ages?

A. The Middle Ages, embrace a period, which extends from the decline of the Western Empire of the Romans, to the fall of the Eastern Empire.

Q. How are the Middle Ages distinguished?

A. They are distinguished by the rise, and progress of Mahometanism, the Feudal System, Crusades, and Chivalry.



Landing of Columbus.

## CHAPTER I.

### *Discovery and Antiquities of America.*

*Q.* Who discovered America?

*A.* Christopher Columbus.

*Q.* When and where was Columbus born?

*A.* At Genoa, in Italy; in the year 1435.

*Q.* How was his youth spent?

*A.* At the age of fourteen, he engaged in a sea-faring life; and soon became distinguished for his skill in managing boats and vessels upon the water.

*Q.* In what branches of knowledge did he excel?

*A.* He was particularly distinguished for his knowledge of Geometry, Astronomy, Geography and Naval Science.

*Q.* What were the people of Europe at that time endeavoring to find?

A. They were endeavoring to find a passage by water to the East Indies.

Q. How did they expect to find a passage by water?

A. By sailing around the southern part of Africa, and then taking an eastern course.

Q. With what country did Columbus suppose this continent was connected?

A. With the East Indies.

Q. What did he conclude?

A. Columbus, reasoning from the spherical figure of the earth, concluded that the Indies might be reached by sailing directly west from Europe.

Q. To whom did he first apply for assistance?

A. He first applied to the government of Genoa, his native country, but his theory was treated as visionary.

Q. To whom did he next apply?

A. He next applied to the king of Portugal who attentively listened to his theory, and then secretly sent a vessel on a voyage of discovery, but the captain, being a man of no experience in naval science, soon returned without having made any discovery.

Q. By whom was he finally assisted?

A. By Ferdinand and Isabella, the sovereigns of Spain.

Q. Where did he sail from?

A. From the port of Palos, in Spain, with three small vessels, carrying ninety men.

Q. Can you relate any particulars of the voyage?

A. The Spaniards, having lost sight of land, were seized with fear, and entreated Columbus to return to Spain.

Q. What did Columbus do?

A. He endeavored to calm their fears and silence their murmurs by kindness and promises but finding their clamors only increased, he assumed a decided tone, and told them that the expedition had been sent out by the order of the Sovereigns of Spain, to find a passage to the Indies, and that he would persevere until he had accomplished the enterprise.

Q. Can you relate any other particulars of the voyage?

A. Every evening, Columbus and his companions, who were Catholics, assembled upon the decks of the vessels, and as the sun disappeared in the west, they chanted forth that beautiful hymn, the *Salve Regina*, in honor of the Blessed Virgin.

Q. When did he discover America?

A. On the 12th of October, in the year 1492

Q. What land did he first reach?

A. He first reached one of the Bahama Islands, which he gave the name of Saint Salvadore.

Q. How many voyages did Columbus make to America?

A. Four; in the third of which he discovered the Continent, and landed in several places in the northern part of South America.

Q. Where and when did Columbus die?

A. He died at Valladolid in Spain, in the year 1506.

Q. Why was the country called America?

A. The country was called America from Americus Vesputius, who sailed to the New World on a voyage of discovery after Columbus had reached the Continent; Americus explored still farther, the new regions, and on his return to Spain published an account of his discovery and the country in consequence, received from him the name of *America*.

Q. By whom was North America discovered?

A. By John Cabot, then in the service of Henry VII, king of England.

Q. What part of the Continent did Cabot discover?

A. He discovered the coast of Labrador, and sailed along the southern coast, and took possession of the country in the name of his sovereign. This laid the foundation of the British claim to North America.

Q. In what year did this take place?

A. In the year 1496; and one year later, he discovered Newfoundland.

Q. By whom was the empire of Mexico conquered?

A. By Hernando Cortez.

Q. From what place did Cortez sail?

A. He sailed from Cuba with a few small vessels carrying six hundred men, sixteen horses and a few pieces of cannon.

Q. Where did he land?

A. He landed on the sight where the present city of Vera Cruz now stands

Q. What did he then do?



A. Having burned his vessels, he commenced his march towards the city of Mexico, and after fighting many battles, he took the city, and finally reduced the whole empire to a Spanish province.

Q. By whom was Peru, in South America discovered and conquered?

A. By Francis Pizarro, about the year 1531

Q. What was the condition of the Peruvians, at the time the empire was discovered?

A. The Peruvians, like the Mexicans, were considerably advanced in civilization; they understood architecture, agriculture, and the working of the precious metals, and had a regular government and a code of civil and religious laws.

Q. What did they worship?

A. They worshipped the Sun as the Supreme Deity.

Q. Is it probable that any part of America was known before the time of Columbus?

A. It is said that Greenland was visited by the Norwegians, in the year 982, and it is now generally believed, that America at an early period was inhabited by a race of people far more advanced in civilization than the Indians.

Q. How do they support this conjecture?

A. By the ruins of many extensive works of art, found in many parts of the country.

Q. Where may some of these be found?

A. In Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York, Kentucky, and many other States.

Q. What ruins do you find in Virginia?

A. Near Wheeling, on the Ohio River, is to be seen the ruins of an ancient mound, fifty feet in circumference, and ninety feet high. This mound is filled with thousands of human skeletons, and was probably situated near some great city, and was the general deposite of the dead for ages.

Q. What may be found in Pennsylvania?

A. Near Marietta are extensive fortifications, consisting of walls, and mounds of earth, from six to ten feet high, and nearly forty feet broad at the base. On the Susquehanna River, a piece of pottery was found, measuring twelve feet across the top, and thirty-six feet in circumference.

Q. What ruins may be seen in Ohio?

A. On the banks of the Muskingum River, are the ruins of immense walls, forts, mounds, and wells, many of them built of hewn stone; and at Paint Creek are to be seen the remains of ancient forts of immense size, covering one hundred and fifteen acres of land.

Q. What has been found in New York?

A. In Onondaga County is the site of an ancient burying ground. In one of the graves was found a glass bottle, and an iron hatchet, edged with steel. In Scipio County, a man found several hundred weight of brass, and a quantity of wrought iron, sufficient to shoe his horses for many years. On the Genesee River, a piece of silver was found, on which was engraved in Arabic letters *the year of our Lord 600*.

Q. What may be found in Kentucky?

A. Lexington, in Kentucky, stands nearly on the site of an ancient town of great extent and magnificence, the ruins of which are still visible.

Q. What do these things prove?

A. They prove, that America was at some remote period inhabited by a race of people, acquainted with many of the mechanical arts, and far advanced in civilization; and that, by some unknown cause, they disappeared from the country, or sank into a state of barbarism, such as the natives were found when Columbus first visited the country.

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## CHAPTER II.

### *The Settlement of Virginia.*

Q. WHEN and where did the English commence their settlement in America?

A. In 1584, Sir Walter Raleigh sent out a company of adventurers, who landed on an island in Pamlico Sound, and then proceeded to the Isle of Roanoke, where they commenced a settlement.

Q. What was the fate of this party?

A. They were in a short time reduced to the utmost distress by famine, and by hostilities with the natives, and returned again to England.

Q. What did Raleigh do in 1585?

A. In 1585, Raleigh sent out another company of one hundred and fifty men.

Q. Where did they land?

A. This party also landed on the Isle of Roanoke, but they were soon reduced to great distress, and returned to England with Sir Francis Drake.

Q. When was the first permanent settlement made in Virginia?

A. The first permanent settlement was made in Virginia in 1607, at Jamestown, under the direction of the London Company.

Q. What have you to observe of the first settlers?

A. They were men of dissipated habits, and destitute of industry and economy. They were soon involved in war with the Indians: and in six months after they landed, half their number died of famine and disease.

Q. What distinguished man was among the first settlers?

A. Captain John Smith.

Q. What have you to relate of Smith?

A. He was taken prisoner by the Indians who carried him to Powhatan, their king.

Q. What sentence was pronounced on Smith?

A. He was condemned to death, and immediately led forth to execution.

Q. What happened as they were about to execute him?

A. His head was laid upon a stone, and the savages with uplifted clubs were about to kill him; but just at this moment, Pocahontas, the favorite daughter of Powhatan, rushed between the executioners and the prisoner, and by her

tears and entreaties prevailed on her father to spare the life of Smith.

Q. Was her prayer heard?

A. Yes; Smith obtained his liberty, and returned in safety to Jamestown.

Q. What is related of Pocahontas?

A. Powhatan had secretly planned the destruction of the Colony, but Pocahontas warned Jamestown on a dark and stormy night, and disclosed to Smith the designs of her father, and thus saved the Colony from destruction.

Q. What happened to her on another visit to Jamestown?

A. She was detained a prisoner.

Q. Whom did she marry?

A. She was married to a young man named John Rolfe, with whom she sailed to England, and was there instructed in the Christian religion, and publicly baptized.

Q. Where did she die?

A. She died at Gravesend, leaving one son, from whom some of the most eminent families in Virginia are descended.

Q. When and by whom was slavery introduced?

A. In the year 1620, a Dutch vessel from the coast of Guinea, sailed up the James River, having on board about twenty negroes, who were sold to the planters.

Q. What happened on the 22d of March, 1623?

A. The colony was attacked by the Indians, and in one fatal hour, 347 of the colonists fell victims to their cruelty.

Q. By what was this followed?

A. By a war of extermination against the Indians.

Q. What took place in 1676?

A. An insurrection broke out, called Bacon's Rebellion, from the name of its leader.

Q. During this rebellion, what happened?

A. The country was laid waste, and Jamestown burned to the ground; but it was terminated by the death of Bacon.

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### CHAPTER III.

#### *The Settlement of the New England States.*

Q. How did these States get the name of New England?

A. In 1614 this section of the country was visited by the celebrated Captain Smith, who explored the coast, and on his return to Europe made a map of the country and called it *New England*.

Q. By whom was Massachusetts settled?

A. By a company of persons from England called Puritans.

Q. Where had the Puritans gone before they removed to America?

A. They had gone to Holland.

Q. Why did they resolve to remove to America?

A. To avoid the persecution carried on against

them in their own country on account of their religion.

Q. What was the name of the vessel in which they sailed?

A. The Mayflower.

Q. Where did they intend to land?

A. They intended to land at the mouth of the Hudson river, but they were carried much further to the north.

Q. When and where did they land?

A. They landed on the 22d of December 1620, at a place called by the natives Patuxet, but to which they gave the name of Plymouth.

Q. Why did they call the place Plymouth?

A. In honor of Plymouth, in England, the port from which they sailed.

Q. What was the number of the Pilgrims?

A. They numbered 101.

Q. What was their condition?

A. They suffered greatly from famine and sickness, so that half their number died before spring.

Q. What regulation did they establish shortly after their landing?

A. With a desire of conforming to the simplicity of the early Christians, they held all their property in common.

Q. By whom were they visited in 1621?

A. They were visited by Massasoit, a distinguished Indian chief, from whom the State of Massachusetts derives its name.

Q. When and by whom was Connecticut settled?

A. In 1636, by a company of persons from Massachusetts, with their minister, Mr. Hooker

Q. Where did they commence their first settlements?

A. At Windsor, Hartford, and Weathersfield

Q. By whom was Rhode Island settled?

A. Rhode Island was settled in 1636, by Roger Williams, a clergyman, who was expelled from Massachusetts on account of his religious opinions.

Q. What did Williams call the first town?

A. He called it Providence, in grateful remembrance of the protection of Heaven over him

Q. What may be remarked of the charter obtained from England for the government of the colony?

A. The charter was liberal; it granted free toleration in matters of religion, yet by the very first Assembly convened under its authority, the Roman Catholics were excluded from voting at elections, and from all civil offices.

Q. By whom was the first settlement in New Hampshire made?

A. By the Rev. Mr. Wheelright, and a few followers, who were also banished from Massachusetts on account of their religion.

Q. Who made the first settlement in Maine?

A. The first settlement in Maine was made by Ferdinand Gorges in 1636.

Q. From what did the New England colonies suffer?

A. They suffered greatly from the hostilities of the Indians



Q. Were the New England colonies engaged in a war with the natives?

A. Yes—in a war known as King Philip's war.

Q. Who was Philip?

A. He was the son of Massasoit, chief of the Wampanoags, and resided chiefly at Mount Hope, Rhode Island.

Q. What is said of this war?

A. It was distinguished for the utmost cruelty and sufferings on both sides.

Q. How was it terminated?

A. It was terminated by the death of Philip who was shot by one of his own men.

Q. Which were the most powerful tribes?

A. The Narragansetts and the Pequods.

Q. What have you to relate concerning the two tribes?

A. The Narragansetts and Pequods were always great enemies to each other; at length the former joined the English in a war against the latter, and the nation of the Pequods was entirely destroyed.

Q. When and where was the first printing press established in America?

A. In the year 1639, at Cambridge, in Massachusetts.

Q. What may be said of the colonists with regard to education?

A. They took deep interest in the affairs of education, and at an early period established schools and colleges for the education of their children.

Q. When was Harvard University founded?

A. In the year 1638, at Cambridge.

Q. When and where was William and Mary College founded?

A. In the year 1693, in Virginia.

Q. When was Yale College founded?

A. In the year 1700, at Saybrook, in Connecticut.

Q. When was Dartmouth College founded?

A. In the year 1769, at Hanover, New Hampshire.

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## CHAPTER IV.

### *The Settlement of the Middle and Southern States.*

Q. By whom was New York settled?

A. By a company of Dutch, in the year 1614.

Q. Where did they commence their settlement?

A. They sailed up the Hudson river, and commenced a settlement near the present city of Albany; they also commenced another settlement on Manhattan Island, where the city of New York now stands, and called it New Amsterdam.

Q. Why is the "Hudson river" so called?

A. It was called after Henry Hudson, an Englishman, then in the service of a Holland company; he was the first European who entered that river

Q. What took place in the year 1664.

A. New Amsterdam was conquered by the English, and called New York, in honor of the Duke of York, to whom it was granted.

Q. By whom was Delaware settled?

A. Delaware was settled by the Swedes and Finns, in 1630.

Q. Where did they commence their first settlement?

A. Near the entrance of the Delaware Bay, where they laid the foundation of Lewistown, the oldest town in the State.

Q. A few years after they commenced this settlement, what took place?

A. The Swedes and Finns were conquered, and their colony subdued by Stuyvesant, the Governor of New Netherlands.

Q. By whom was Maryland settled?

A. The settlement of Maryland was commenced in 1633, by a colony of Roman Catholics under Lord Baltimore, a native of England.

Q. Why did they leave England?

A. They left England, because they were greatly persecuted on account of their religion.

Q. Where did they land?

A. They landed on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay, and commenced a settlement at a village which they purchased from the Indians, and called St. Mary's.

Q. What were the names of the vessels in which they sailed?

A. They were called the Ark and the Dove.

*Q.* What have you to observe with regard to this colony?

*A.* The government of Lord Baltimore was established on the most liberal principles. Civil and religious liberty were proclaimed; no one was molested on account of his religion; and all were permitted to worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience.

*Q.* To whom does the honor of having first established religious freedom in America belong?

*A.* To the Roman Catholics of Maryland.

*Q.* How did Lord Baltimore treat the Indians?

*A.* With kindness and humanity; they paid them for their lands, and by the aid of their missionaries, many of them were converted to Christianity.

*Q.* Who were the missionaries that accompanied the early settlers of Maryland?

*A.* Father White and Father Altham, two Jesuit priests.

*Q.* By whom was Pennsylvania settled?

*A.* By a company of Friends, or Quakers, under the celebrated William Penn.

*Q.* When did they arrive in this country?

*A.* The first company arrived in the year 1681, but Penn himself did not arrive until about a year later, with another party.

*Q.* Where did they commence a settlement?

*A.* They purchased the land from the natives, and commenced a settlement on the Delaware river, where the city of Philadelphia now stands.

*Q.* What have you to observe of this colony?

A William Penn, following the example of Lord Baltimore, established full liberty of conscience, and the settlement soon became flourishing.

Q. When and where did Penn die?

A. He died in England in 1718, in the 75th year of his age.

Q. By whom was North Carolina settled?

A. In the year 1650, by a colony from Virginia.

Q. Where did they commence a settlement?

A. Near Albemarle Sound.

Q. When was South Carolina settled?

A. In the year 1689, where Charleston now stands.

Q. What was introduced in 1700?

A. In the year 1700 the cultivation of cotton and rice was introduced.

Q. When and by whom was Georgia settled?

A. In the year 1732, by Mr. Oglethorpe, who commenced a settlement where the city of Savannah now stands.

Q. Why was it called Georgia?

A. It was called in honor of George the Second, at that time King of England.



Surrender of Quebec, and Death of General Wolfe.

## CHAPTER V.

### *The French War, and Conquest of Canada.*

Q. WHERE had the French made settlements

A. They had made settlements in Canada Nova Scotia, and near the Mississippi river.

Q. What occurred between the English and French settlers ?

A. Frequent disputes.

Q. What did the French endeavor to do ?

A They endeavored to connect their distant possessions by erecting forts along the Ohio river, and military posts from that river across the country to the lakes.

Q. What did the Governor of Virginia do ?

A He resolved to send a person to the French

settlement on the Ohio to demand the cause of those hostile proceedings.

Q. On whom did the choice fall?

A. On George Washington, then a young man, in the twenty-first year of his age.

Q. When and where was Washington born

A. On the 22d of February, 1732, in West moreland county, Virginia.

Q. How was his youth distinguished?

A. It was distinguished by his attention and progress in his studies, and great regard for *truth*.

Q. Can you relate any remarkable instance of his candor?

A. Yes; it is related that his father once gave him a little hatchet, with which in his youthful sport, he destroyed a valuable young apple tree. His father, being very angry, asked who had destroyed the tree. Young George, hearing it, ran to his father and said, "Father, you know that I cannot tell a lie; I did it with my hatchet."

Q. How far were the French forts on the Ohio from the Virginia colony?

A. The distance was about 400 miles, 200 of which were through a wilderness inhabited by hostile tribes of Indians.

Q. How did Washington travel?

A. He started on horseback, but before he had proceeded far his horse failed. He then proceeded on foot, with a musket in his hand and a pack on his back. He reached the French settlement, delivered the message to the commander, and returned safely to Virginia.

*Q.* What have you to observe of the reply of the French commander?

*A.* The reply did not give satisfaction, and the Governor of Virginia immediately organized a regiment to support the claims of Great Britain.

*Q.* Who was appointed commander of this regiment?

*A.* Mr. Fry was appointed colonel, and young Washington lieutenant-colonel; but on the death of Fry, which happened shortly afterwards, the command devolved upon Washington.

*Q.* Where did Washington proceed?

*A.* He marched forward to attack the French at Fort Duquesne, near the place where Pittsburg now stands.

*Q.* What happened before he reached that place?

*A.* Before he reached the fort, he was informed that the French had been strongly reinforced.

*Q.* What did he do?

*A.* He fell back to a fort which he had recently thrown up.

*Q.* What took place there?

*A.* He was there attacked by the French, and made a brave resistance, but he was at last compelled to capitulate.

*Q.* What happened in 1754?

*A.* General Braddock arrived in Virginia with authority of commander-in-chief of the English forces in America.

*Q.* What did Braddock do?

*A.* Despising the prudent advice of Washington, he pushed forward to Fort Duquesne.



Q. What was the consequence?

A. Before he reached the fort, he was suddenly attacked by a body of French and Indians

Q. What followed?

A. After making a brave resistance, the English were totally defeated.

Q. What is said of Braddock?

A. He did all that a brave general could do but after having three horses shot under him, he fell mortally wounded.

Q. What is said of Washington?

A. Washington had two horses shot under him, and four balls passed through his coat, yet he escaped unhurt.

Q. How many of the British were killed in this battle?

Q. About seven hundred; and out of eighty-five officers, only twenty-one survived.

Q. About the same time, what took place in the eastern colonies?

A. General Shirley, of Massachusetts, led an expedition against Canada; but it was unsuccessful; and Oswego was taken by the French.

Q. What took place in 1759?

A. Niagara was taken by Sir William Johnson, and Quebec by General Wolfe.

Q. What is related of Wolfe?

A. He received a mortal wound in the moment of victory, and was carried to the rear of the army. When in the agonies of death, he heard the shout: "They fly, they fly!" "Who fly?" asked the dying hero, and being told that

it was the French, he replied: "I die happy" and immediately expired.

Q. What is related of Montcalm, the French commander?

A. Montcalm also fell mortally wounded; and being told that he could survive only a few moments, he replied: "So much the better; I shall not then live to see the surrender of Quebec."

Q. What took place the following year?

A. Canada was reduced to a British province

---

## CHAPTER VI

### *The Causes of the Revolution.*

Q. WHAT may be observed of the colonies up to this period?

A. Up to this period the colonies expressed a warm attachment for England, and felt proud of their connection with one of the most powerful nations of Europe.

Q. What were some of the causes which led to the American Revolution?

A. Shortly after the French war, the British government began to encroach upon the rights of the colonies, and wished to raise a revenue by taxing them without their consent.

Q. What was the first act of oppression, passed by the British parliament towards the American colonies?

A. It was the famous *Stamp Act*, passed in the year 1765.

Q. What was the nature of this act?

A. By this act, the Americans were compelled to use *stamped* paper for all notes, bonds, and other legal instruments, on which paper a heavy duty was to be paid to the British government.

Q. What did the Americans do, when they heard of the passage of this act?

A. They shut up the courts of justice, and the people settled their disputes by arbitration; they then formed an association against importing or using British goods.

Q. What took place in 1766?

A. The opposition to the stamp act was so great, that it was repealed in 1766.

Q. What was the next act of oppression on the part of the British parliament?

A. In 1767, a duty was laid on tea, glass, paper, and several other articles, imported to the colonies.

Q. What followed the passage of this act?

A. The flame of opposition increased in America to such a degree, that in 1770, the British parliament repealed the duties on all articles, except three pence per pound on tea.

Q. In 1773 how did the people of Boston express their opposition to the duty on tea?

A. A party of men, disguised as Indians, went on board the ships, during the night, and threw the tea, consisting of 342 chests, into the harbor.

Q. When the news of this action reached England, what did the parliament do?

A. An act was passed, by which the port of Boston was closed, and the government transferred to Salem.

Q. How did the people of Maryland express their opposition to the duty on tea?

A. They assembled in several places, and compelled the persons, who paid the duty, to burn the tea publicly. On one occasion, at Annapolis, they burned not only the tea, but also the vessel in which it was imported.

Q. What other tyrannical act was passed about this time?

A. An act was passed by the British parliament, by which, all persons indicted for capital offences, were to be sent to England for trial.

Q. When and where did the first Continental Congress meet?

A. At Philadelphia, in the year 1774.

Q. What agreement was entered into?

A. An agreement was entered into, called the Solemn League and Covenant, by which the members determined to suspend all intercourse with Great Britain until their rights should be restored.

Q. Who was the first President of the Continental Congress?

A. Peyton Randolph, of Virginia.

Q. What was commenced about this time?

A. A regular enlistment of soldiers



Battle of Bunker Hill.

## CHAPTER VII.

### *The Revolutionary War.*

Q. WHERE was the first battle fought in the Revolution?

A. At Lexington, in the year 1775.

Q. What occasioned the battle of Lexington?

A. On the 19th of April, a body of British troops was sent to destroy some military stores collected at Concord; but in passing through Lexington they were met by a small party of Americans who had assembled to oppose their progress.

Q. What was the issue of the battle?

A. The Americans were dispersed, and the British troops proceeded to Concord.

Q. What followed this event?

A. The Americans, roused by the report of the muskets, assembled by hundreds, and the British were obliged to retreat to Boston.

Q. What happened to them in their retreat?

A. They were attacked by the Americans and sixty-five of their number killed, and one hundred and eighty wounded.

Q. What did Congress do immediately after this event?

A. It voted that thirty thousand men should be raised in the New England colonies.

Q. In the mean time what was done?

A. Crown Point and several other forts and magazines in the possession of the English were seized by the Americans.

Q. What did the Americans resolve?

A. They resolved, if possible, to drive the British from Boston.

Q. For this purpose, what did they do?

A. They directed Colonel Prescott, with a body of one thousand men, to throw up an intrenchment on Bunker's Hill.

Q. What mistake took place?

A. Prescott took possession of Breed's Hill, an eminence much nearer Boston.

Q. When did Prescott gain possession of the hill?

A. He reached the place during the night of the 16th of June, and worked so silently that the English had no intimation of his design until the sun, on the return of day, beamed upon the American works.

*Q.* What did the British do when they beheld Breed's Hill occupied by the Americans?

*A.* After firing upon the works from the ships in the harbor, without effect, General Gage sent General Howe and General Pigot, with three thousand men to drive the Americans from the hill.

*Q.* What followed?

*A.* The memorable battle of Bunker's Hill, during which the British troops were twice repulsed, with a heavy loss; but being reinforced, they finally succeeded in carrying the fortification.

*Q.* How did the Americans fight?

*A.* They fought with determined bravery when all their ammunition was exhausted, they continued the battle with the butt-end of their muskets, and were only driven from their works at the point of the bayonet.

*Q.* What was the loss on both sides?

*A.* The British lost one thousand and fifty-four, in killed and wounded, and the Americans thirty-nine killed and two hundred and twenty-eight wounded.

*Q.* What American officers were engaged in this action?

*A.* Generals Warren, Putnam, and Starke; the former of whom was killed.

*Q.* During the battle of Bunker's Hill, what town was set on fire?

*A.* Charlestown; a few bombs were thrown into it, and the place soon enveloped in flames

Q. After this battle, who was chosen as Commander-in-chief of the American forces?

A. George Washington, then in the forty-fourth year of his age.

Q. When and where did Washington take command of the army?

A. On the 2d of July, 1775, at Cambridge near Boston.

Q. What was the number of the army at this time?

A. About fourteen thousand men.

Q. Who were sent to invade Canada?

A. Generals Schuyler and Montgomery; but the former being unable to proceed on account of sickness, the whole command devolved on Montgomery.

Q. What place did Montgomery capture?

A. Montreal: November 13th, 1775.

Q. Who was sent to aid Montgomery?

A. General Arnold.

Q. What place did they attempt to take by storm?

A. The city of Quebec.

Q. What was the result?

A. The attempt proved unsuccessful and fatal to the heroic Montgomery, who fell in the act of scaling the walls.

Q. Of what country was Montgomery a native?

A. Of Ireland, which he left in order to aid the Americans in gaining their liberty.

Q. What was the first operation of General Washington?



4. The expulsion of the British from Boston

Q. How did he effect this?

A. He erected a battery on Dorchester Point, which soon obliged General Howe to abandon the city.

Q. When did the British leave Boston?

A. On the 17th of March they embarked for Halifax.

Q. By whom was the city of Charleston, the capital of South Carolina, attacked?

A. By Sir Peter Parker, with several British vessels of war.

Q. What was the result?

A. After a violent assault, which lasted for ten hours, they were compelled to retire.

Q. Who defended the city?

A. Colonel Moultrie.

Q. On the 7th of June what motion was made in Congress?

A. A motion was made by Richard Henry Lee, of Virginia, and seconded by John Adams, of Massachusetts, declaring the colonies free and independent.

Q. When did the Declaration of Independence take place?

A. On the fourth of July, in the year 1776

Q. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?

A. Thomas Jefferson.

Q. How many colonies were there at that time?

A. Thirteen.

Q. What were they declared to be?

A. They were declared to be *Free, Sovereign and Independent States*.

Q. Where was Congress then assembled?

A. In Philadelphia.

Q. Who was then President of the Congress?

A. John Hancock.

Q. How did the signers pledge themselves to support this declaration?

A. They pledged *their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor*.

Q. What was the effect of the Declaration of Independence?

A. By it all connection with Great Britain was for ever dissolved.

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## CHAPTER VIII.

### *The Revolutionary War—continued.*

Q. WHEN and where was the first battle fought after the Declaration of Independence?

A. On the 27th of August, on Long Island.

Q. Which party was victorious?

A. The British.

Q. Who commanded the Americans?

A. General Sullivan.

Q. By whom were the British commanded?

A. Sir Henry Clinton, Percy, and Lord Cornwallis.

Q. Can you tell the loss on both sides?

A. The British lost four hundred, but the

Americans lost about one thousand in killed, wounded and prisoners.

Q. What incident occurred about this time, that exhibits the noble and independent spirit of General Washington?

A. Letters were addressed to him by General Howe, commander of the British; but as these letters were directed to *George Washington*, and not to him in his official capacity, Washington refused to receive them.

Q. When he was told that they contained grants of pardon, &c., what did he reply?

A. He replied, that the Americans had committed no wrong, and therefore wanted no pardon: they were only contending for their rights and liberties.

Q. After the battle of Long Island, what did the British do?

A. They took possession of New York, September 15th.

Q. Where did the Americans retire?

A. They retired to White Plains, where, on the 28th of October, a severe action took place, in which several hundred were killed and wounded on both sides; yet neither party could claim the victory.

Q. After this battle where did Washington retire?

A. He retired to Newark; from thence he passed through New Brunswick, Princeton, Trenton, and finally crossed the Delaware, being closely pursued by the British under Lord Cornwallis.

Q. Where was General Lee taken prisoner?

A. At Baskenridge, near New Brunswick.

Q. During the winter of this year, what daring enterprise did Washington accomplish?

A. On the 25th of December he recrossed the Delaware, and surprised a large body of Hessian troops at Trenton, and took them prisoners.

Q. What was the number of the prisoners?

A. About one thousand and forty-eight.

Q. Who were the Hessians?

A. They were German soldiers, hired by England to fight against the Americans.

Q. What did Washington then do?

A. Taking with him a great quantity of arms and ammunition that fell into his hands, he recrossed the Delaware the same day.

Q. What was Washington's next exploit?

A. On the 3d of January, 1777, he proceeded to Princeton, defeated a party of British, with a loss of three hundred men, and compelled the remainder, about three hundred in number, to surrender themselves as prisoners of war.

Q. In this action who was killed?

A. General Mercer, of Virginia.

Q. What is said of these achievements?

A. They diffused universal joy among the Americans, and inspired them with fresh ardor in the cause of freedom.

Q. During this spring, what took place in Connecticut?

A. Governor Tryon was sent by the British to destroy some military stores at Danbury.

Q Did he succeed in his design?

A. He destroyed the stores, and partly burnt the town.

Q. What happened on his return?

A. He was attacked and defeated by the Americans under General Wooster, who unfortunately lost his life.

Q. What was the object of General Howe.

A To gain possession of Philadelphia.

Q. For this purpose what did he do?

A. He embarked his troops at New York, sailed up the Chesapeake Bay, and landing at the head of Elk River, he commenced his march to Philadelphia.

Q. When and where was he opposed?

A On the 11th of September, on the banks of the river Brandywine, not far from Wilmington.

Q. What was the result of the battle?

A. The Americans, under General Washington, were repulsed.

Q. What two distinguished foreigners served under the American banners, in the battle?

A. Lafayette, of France, and Pulaski, of Poland; the former of whom was wounded.

Q. Who was Lafayette?

A. He was a French nobleman, who came to his country to assist the Americans in gaining their independence.

Q Who was Pulaski?

A. He was a native of Poland; he came to this country in order to assist the countrymen of Washington in maintaining their rights, and

in obtaining their liberties. He was killed in the American cause, at Savannah.

Q. When did the British take possession of Philadelphia?

A. On the 26th of September, 1777.

Q. What took place on the 4th of October?

A. An attempt was made by General Washington to surprise a detachment of the British at Germantown; but the attempt was unsuccessful.

Q. Where had the Americans two forts erected?

A. They had one on Mud Island, below Philadelphia, called Fort Mifflin, and another on the Jersey Shore, called Red Bank.

Q. What have you to observe of these forts?

A. They were repeatedly attacked by the British, and finally taken, but not until they were entirely battered down, and all the cannon dismounted.

Q. Where did Washington take up his winter quarters?

A. At Valley Forge, about twenty miles from Philadelphia.

Q. What have you to observe of the condition of the Americans at Valley Forge?

A. They were destitute of almost every thing, shoes, stockings, blankets, tents, &c., and had nothing but temporary huts to shelter them from the inclemency of the weather.

Q. What took place at Bennington?

A. Colonel Baum, the British commander, was defeated by the Americans under General Stark.

Q. When did this engagement take place?

A. On the 16th of August, 1777.

Q. Who was the commander-in-chief of the British forces in this quarter?

A. General Burgoyne.

Q. Who, at that time, was appointed to the command of the American forces?

A. General Gates.

Q. What battle took place on the 19th of September?

A. The battle of Stillwater, on the west side of the Hudson river.

Q. What party gained the victory?

A. The battle was indecisive, though the Americans had the advantage.

Q. Where did Burgoyne intrench himself?

A. At Saratoga.

Q. When was the battle of Saratoga fought?

A. On the 7th of October.

Q. Who distinguished himself in this battle?

A. Gen. Arnold, who was severely wounded.

Q. What took place on the 17th of October, 1777?

A. Burgoyne was compelled to surrender himself and his whole army to General Gates as prisoners of war.

Q. What was the number of troops that surrendered to General Gates at Saratoga?

A. About 5,790 men, together with all their arms, ammunition, and military stores.

## CHAPTER IX

*The Revolutionary War—continued.*

Q. WHAT took place in the early part of the year 1778?

A. A treaty of alliance was concluded between France and the United States.

Q. Can you name the American commissioners with whom the treaty was negotiated?

A. Dr. Franklin, Silas Dean, and Arthur Lee.

Q. Who was then King of France?

A. Louis the Sixteenth.

Q. When the news of this treaty reached England, what was done by the British government?

A. War was immediately declared against France, and commissioners were sent to America to settle the difficulties with the colonies.

Q. Were these commissioners successful?

A. No; their offers were rejected.

Q. What took place on the 22d of June, 1778?

A. The British evacuated Philadelphia.

Q. What occurred on the 28th of June?

A. The battle of Monmouth took place.

Q. Can you describe the battle?

A. The battle was conducted for some time with great bravery on both sides; at length General Lee retreated, and threw the American lines into disorder; but Washington coming up at this moment, order was again restored. The



attle ended with the day; and during the night he British silently withdrew and continued their march to New York.

Q. What have you to observe of Lee?

A. Lee was tried for disobedience of orders, and disrespect to the commander-in-chief, and suspended from the service. He never joined the army again. He died in the fall of 1782 in Philadelphia.

Q. What assistance arrived about this time?

A. In July a fleet under the command of Count d'Estaing, sent over by the king of France, arrived on the coast of the United States, bringing aid to the Americans.

Q. What was done by the fleet?

A. Nothing of any particular importance; at the close of the season it sailed to the West Indies, where it remained during the winter.

Q. What settlement was destroyed about this time?

A. The settlement of Wyoming.

Q. Where was Wyoming?

A. It was situated near the banks of the Susquehanna, in the present county of Luzerne Pennsylvania.

Q. Can you describe its destruction?

A. It was attacked by a party of Tories and Indians; the men were butchered and the women and children locked up in the houses, which were then set on fire, and the unfortunate inmates were consumed in the flames.

Q. Where did Washington pass the winter of 1778 and 1779?

A. At Middlebrook, in New Jersey

Q. What took place in July?

A. Stony Point, on the Hudson, was captured by General Wayne.

Q. In the mean time, what took place in the south?

A. The British took possession of Savannah and Sunbury, in Georgia.

Q. What took place at Savannah?

A. The Americans, under General Lincoln, in connection with the French fleet, attempted to retake it, but the attempt was unsuccessful.

Q. What distinguished personage was killed during this attack?

A. The brave and patriotic Pulaski, a native of Poland, who had come to this country to aid the Americans to gain their independence.

Q. How was the campaign of 1780 commenced?

A. The British laid siege to Charleston, the capital of South Carolina.

Q. What was the result?

A. The city was bravely defended for some time, but was at length compelled to surrender, May 11th.

Q. What took place on the 16th of August.

A. The battle of Camden, in which General Gates was defeated by the British, under Lord Cornwallis.

Q. What troops distinguished themselves in this battle?

A. The regular troops of Maryland and Delaware.

Q. Who commanded these troops?

A. The brave and illustrious Baron De Kalb. He maintained his position until overpowered by numbers and taken prisoner.

Q. Who was De Kalb?

A. He was a Prussian General, who, like Lafayette and Pulaski, left his home and came to this country to assist the Americans in gaining their independence.

Q. What was his fate?

A. He died of the wounds he received in this battle.

Q. What did he say to a British officer before his death?

A. He said: "I die the death I have always prayed for; the death of a soldier fighting for the rights of man."

Q. Where was the next battle fought?

A. At King's Mountain, North Carolina.

Q. What party gained the victory?

A. The Americans, under Colonel Campbell.

Q. What took place in July?

A. A French fleet, under the command of De Ternay, arrived at Rhode Island.

Q. What was the number of troops on board his fleet?

A. About 6,000, under the command of Count Rochambeau.

Q. What naval victory have you to record during this year?

A. In September of this year, Paul Jones, sailing under the American flag, gained an important victory over a British frigate, on the

east of Scotland. The Order of Merit was conferred on him by Louis XVI, of France, and Congress gave him a vote of thanks and presented him with a gold medal.

Q. For what was this year distinguished?

A. For the treachery of General Arnold.

Q. What did Arnold intend to do?

A. He intended to betray West Point into the hands of the British.

Q. Who was the agent with whom Arnold had an interview?

A. A British Major, named John Andre.

Q. How were the designs of Arnold prevented?

A. Andre was detected on his return to New York.

Q. Can you relate the particulars of his capture?

A. He was returning to New York in the dress of a private citizen, when he was stopped by three American soldiers, who searched him, and found a drawing of West Point, and other papers concealed in one of his boots.

Q. When did this take place?

A. On the 23d of September, 1780.

Q. What did Andre do to obtain his release?

A. He offered his captors a purse of gold, and a valuable watch, if they would let him go: but these noble-hearted patriots valued their country above gold; they refused to release him, and immediately led him to the American camp.

Q. What was the fate of Andre?

A. He was tried and executed as a spy.

Q. What became of Arnold?

A. He made his escape to New York, and received, as the reward of his treachery, the appointment of General in the British army.

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Surrender of Cornwallis.

## CHAPTER X.

### *The Revolution—concluded.*

Q. AFTER the defeat of General Gates, who was appointed to the command of the Southern army?

A. General Greene, in 1781.

Q. What took place on the 17th of January, this year?

A. The Americans, under General Morgan gained a signal victory over the British, commanded by Tarlton, in the battle of the Clouds.

Q. Which party gained the victory in the battle of Hobkirk's Hill?

A. The British, under Lord Rawdon.

Q. Who commanded the Americans?

A. General Greene.

Q. What occurred at Eutaw Springs, in South Carolina?

A. General Greene completely routed the main body of the British army.

Q. After this battle, where did Lord Cornwallis fortify himself?

A. Yorktown, in Virginia.

Q. When General Washington heard of the position of Cornwallis what did he do?

A. He left his camp at White Plains, crossed the Hudson with his army, and passing rapidly through New Jersey and Pennsylvania, he arrived at the head of Elk River, on his way to Yorktown.

Q. By whom was he joined?

A. Marquis de Lafayette, with reinforcements.

Q. While Washington was on his march, what pleasing intelligence did he receive?

A. He heard of the arrival of a French fleet under the command of Count de Grasse.

Q. At the same time, what fleet appeared off the Capes?

A. A British fleet under the command of Admiral Greaves.

Q. What action took place?

A. A slight action took place between the two fleets, in which the French had the advantage, and remained in possession of the Bay.

Q. In the mean time, what did General Washington do?

A. He embarked his forces, and arrived at Yorktown.

Q. What was now commenced?

A. A close siege was now commenced, and carried on with so much vigor, that Lord Cornwallis was obliged to surrender himself and his whole army to General Washington, as prisoners of war.

Q. When did this event take place?

A. On the 19th of October, 1781.

Q. What was the number of the British troops that surrendered?

A. They exceeded seven thousand.

Q. What amount of military stores were taken?

A. Seventy-five brass, and 169 iron cannon, 7,794 muskets, 28 standards, besides many other valuable articles.

Q. What did General Washington do immediately after the surrender of Cornwallis?

A. He ordered divine service to be performed in the different brigades of the army.

Q. When the news of this glorious event reached Congress, what did that body recommend?

A. It recommended a day of general thanksgiving throughout the United States.

Q. After the surrender of Cornwallis, what became of the British forces in the south?

A. They evacuated all their posts in South Carolina and Georgia, and joined the main army in New York.

Q. After this, what did Great Britain do?

A. She resolved to discontinue a war which had already exhausted the nation, and reflected so much discredit on her arms.

Q. When were pacific overtures made to the American people?

A. Early in the spring of 1782, when both nations ceased from hostilities.

Q. Who were the American commissioners with whom the treaty of peace was negotiated?

A. John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Henry Laurens, and John Jay.

Q. Where did they meet?

A. In the city of Paris.

Q. When was the treaty concluded and signed?

A. On the 30th of November, 1782, in which the United Colonies were admitted to be "*Free Sovereign, and Independent States.*"

Q. When was it ratified by the United States?

A. On the 3d of September, 1783.

Q. Where was Congress in session at that time?

A. At Annapolis, in Maryland.

Q. How long had the war lasted?

A. About eight years.

Q. What did the war cost Great Britain?

A. The sum of one hundred million pounds sterling and 50,000 of her subjects.



Q. What took place on the 25th of November, 1783?

A. The British evacuated New York, and General Washington, accompanied by Governor Clinton, entered that city in triumph.

Q. After peace was concluded, what did General Washington do?

A. He resigned his military commission, and retired to his peaceful home at Mount Vernon, in Virginia.

Q. About this time what society was formed?

A. The officers of the American army, before they separated, formed themselves into a society which they called Cincinnati, after Cincinnatus, the celebrated Roman General, who, after he had vanquished the enemies of his country, retired to his farm.

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## CHAPTER XI.

### *Adoption of the Constitution of the United States —Difficulties with France, &c.*

Q. PREVIOUS to the formation of the present Constitution, by what had the United States been governed?

A. By the Articles of Confederation.

Q. What have you to observe of them?

A. After the dangers of the war had passed away, they were found wholly insufficient for the public wants.

Q. What was determined on ?

A. The formation of a constitution, which might supply the deficiencies of the old one.

Q. Where did delegates assemble for that purpose ?

A. In the city of Philadelphia, on the 25th of May, 1787.

Q. Who was chosen president of this assembly

A. General Washington.

Q. How long did the delegates deliberate ?

A. About four months.

Q. After the delegates had agreed on the form of the constitution, what did they do ?

A. They sent it to Congress, and by this body it was sent to the different States for their consideration.

Q. Was it accepted by all the States ?

A. No ; North Carolina and Rhode Island at first rejected it, but they afterwards adopted it.

Q. By the constitution, in whom is the legislative power vested ?

A. In a Congress, consisting of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Q. Where did the first Congress meet ?

A. In the city of New York, in April, 1788

Q. Who was elected the first President of the United States ?

A. General Washington, who was then in the 57th year of his age.

Q. Who was chosen Vice President ?

A. John Adams, of Massachusetts.

Q. Who were the other prominent officers of the government ?

A. Alexander Hamilton was appointed Secretary of the Treasury ; Henry Knox, Secretary of War ; Edmund Randolph, Attorney General ; and John Jay, Chief Justice of the United States.

Q. What were some of the first acts of Congress ?

A. They laid a duty on the importation of merchandise, and on the tonnage of vessels.

Q. When was the United States Bank established ?

A. In the year 1790, and was chartered for twenty years.

Q. What distinguished man died at this period ?

A. Doctor Franklin died at Philadelphia, while Governor of Pennsylvania, at the age of 84 years.

Q. What may be observed of Franklin ?

A. He was a poor boy, and apprenticed to learn the art of printing, but by applying himself to study during his hours of leisure, he arose to eminence in science, and filled many positions of honor and distinction among his countrymen.

Q. Of what was he the discoverer ?

A. He was the discoverer of the electrical quality of lightning.

Q. What useful invention followed this discovery ?

A. The lightning-rod.

Q. What disturbance took place about this time ?

A. The inhabitants of the western part of Pennsylvania were highly incensed by certain

measures of Congress, for raising a revenue by imposing a tax upon distilled spirits.

Q. What did the President do?

A. Washington sent a military force into that section of the State, but the difficulty was settled without bloodshed.

Q. What troubles arose on the north-western frontier?

A. War with the Indians.

Q. What was the result of this war?

A. General Hamer was defeated by the Indians, near Chillicothe, in Ohio; after this, General St. Clair, was sent against them with additional forces, but he also was defeated near the Miami, leaving nearly 600 of his men dead upon the field.

Q. What took place in 1794?

A. The Indians were finally defeated by General Wayne, who succeeded St. Clair, and compelled to sign a treaty of peace.

Q. In what were the United States involved?

A. They were involved in difficulties, growing out of the convulsion of Europe.

Q. What did the French do?

A. They put their king to death, then abolished the regal government, and established a republic on its ruins.

Q. What did they look for from America?

A. They expected that the people of the United States would assist them, and sent over to America Mr. Genet, as their agent.

Q. What is said of the conduct of Genet?

A. He conducted himself with great haughtiness.

ess, and treated the American Republic like a tributary country; his conduct was disavowed by the French government, and Mr. Fauchet was sent over in his place.

Q. What course did Washington determine to pursue, during the distracting wars of Europe?

A. He determined to observe a strict neutrality.

Q. How long was Washington President of the United States?

A. He served two terms, or eight years.

Q. At the end of his second term, what did he do?

A. He declined a re-election, issued a farewell address to the American people, and retired from public life.

Q. Who succeeded him in the office of President?

A. John Adams, of Massachusetts.

Q. Who was chosen Vice President?

A. Thomas Jefferson, of Virginia.

Q. During the administration of Mr. Adams, what is said of France?

A. The French Directory made, with much insolence, certain unreasonable demands of the United States, and assumed a hostile attitude.

Q. What did the United States do?

A. They immediately took measures of defence; General Washington was appointed Commander-in-chief of the Army, and orders were given for the capture of French vessels.

Q. What followed?

A. Commodore Truxton, commanded the

Constellation, American ship-of-war, captured two French vessels.

Q. What was the effect of these measures?

A. The French government was soon induced to make overtures of peace.

Q. What happened about this period?

A. The Republic was destined to mourn the death of General Washington.

Q. When and where did Washington die?

A. On the 14th of December, 1799, at Mount Vernon, in the 68th year of his age.

Q. Of what disease did he die?

A. He died of an inflammation of the throat, after an illness of only two days.

Q. When and by whom was the city of Washington laid out?

A. In 1791, by the distinguished man whose name it bears?

Q. When was the seat of government removed to Washington?

A. In the year 1800.

Q. What city had previously been the seat of government?

A. The city of Philadelphia, for the space of ten years.

Q. Who succeeded Mr. Adams as President of the United States?

A. Thomas Jefferson, in 1801.

Q. Who, at the same time, was chosen Vice-President?

A. Aaron Burr.

Q. About this time, what new source of vexation arose?

A. The piracies of the Barbary States.

Q. What did Tripoli demand?

A. Certain tributes, which the United States refused to pay.

Q. What followed?

A. Several vessels belonging to the United States were captured.

Q. In 1803, what took place?

A. The American frigate Philadelphia, run aground near Tripoli, and all her officers and men were taken prisoners, and the vessel seized by the Tripolitans.

Q. How were the American prisoners treated?

A. The officers were treated as prisoners of war, but the men were treated with the greatest cruelty; they were chained to loaded carts, and compelled to drag them through the town.

Q. In 1804 what took place?

A. Lieutenant Stephen Decatur sailed into the very harbor of Tripoli, and burnt the frigate Philadelphia.

Q. On what terms did the American prisoners obtain their liberty?

A. On the payment of sixty-thousand dollars.

Q. From what nation was the territory of Louisiana purchased?

A. From France, in 1803, for the sum of 15,000,000.

Q. What took place in the year 1807?

A. Aaron Burr was tried for conspiracy.

Q. Of what was he accused?

A. He was accused of an attempt to separate the Southern and Western States from the rest,

and to erect them into a separate government the capital of which should be New Orleans.

Q. What was the result of the trial?

A. He was acquitted for want of sufficient evidence.

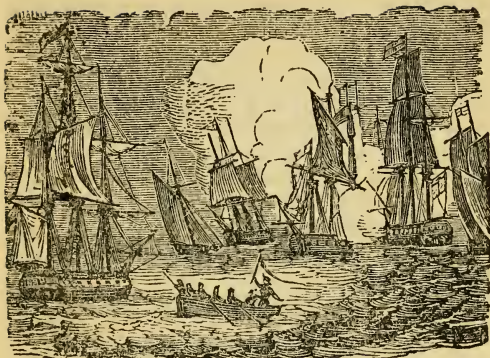
Q. Who had been previously killed in a due y Burr?

A. Alexander Hamilton, in 1804, at Hoboken New Jersey.

Q. What expedition was undertaken about this time?

A. An expedition was undertaken by Lewis and Clarke to explore the Missouri river; they ascended that river, crossed the Rocky Mountains, reached the head waters of the Columbia, and descended that river to the Pacific ocean.





Perry's Victory.

## CHAPTER XII.

*The Late War with England.*

Q. WHAT was the principal cause of the late war with England?

A. The practice authorized by the British government of searching American vessels, and taking from them such persons as were thought to be natives of Great Britain.

Q. What have you to observe of this practice?

A. It was subject to great abuse, from the difficulty of distinguishing between British deserters and American seamen. Moreover, the British officers were not always anxious to make this distinction, and on several occasions it was

believed that American citizens were compelled to serve in the British navy.

Q. Was there any other cause?

A. Yes; England blockaded the ports of her enemies, and prevented American vessels from entering; thus violating the rights of neutral nations.

Q. When was war declared?

A. On the 18th of June, in the year 1812.

Q. Who was President at this time?

A. James Madison, who succeeded Thomas Jefferson in 1809.

Q. What was one of the first operations of the war?

A. The invasion of Canada by General Hull.

Q. What was the result?

A. On the 16th of August General Hull disgracefully surrendered his whole army into the hands of the British.

Q. When Hull returned to the States, what followed?

A. He was immediately tried by a court-martial, found guilty of cowardice, and sentenced to be shot.

Q. Was this sentence carried into execution?

A. No; on account of his age, and the service he had rendered during the Revolution, he was pardoned by the President; but his name was stricken from the roll of officers.

Q. On the 19th of August, what took place?

A. The American frigate Constitution, commanded by Captain Hull, captured the British

~~English~~ Guerriere, after an action of only twenty minutes.

*Q.* What was the loss on both sides?

*A.* The Guerriere lost fifteen killed and sixty-four wounded, and that of the Constitution was even killed and seven wounded.

*Q.* On the 25th of October, what naval victory was obtained?

*A.* Commodore Decatur, commanding the American frigate United States, captured the British frigate Macedonian.

*Q.* In this action, what was the loss on both sides?

*A.* The British lost thirty-six killed, sixty-eight wounded; the American loss amounted to seven killed and five wounded.

*Q.* What did Captain Jones achieve?

*A.* Captain Jones, who commanded the Wasp, captured the Frolic, a British sloop-of-war; but on the same day they were both captured by a British frigate.

*Q.* What took place in December?

*A.* The Constitution, then under command of Captain Bainbridge, captured the British frigate Java.

*Q.* What was the first operation of the year 1813?

*A.* A detachment of about 800 men under General Winchester was surprised and defeated by the British and Indians under General Proctor at Frenchtown.

*Q.* What was the fate of those who surrendered?

A. They were nearly all inhumanly massacred by the Indians.

Q. What took place in April?

A. York, the capital of Upper Canada, was taken by the Americans under General Pike.

Q. What was the fate of General Pike?

A. He was killed in the moment of victory by the explosion of a magazine.

Q. What took place in May?

A. An attack was made on Sackett's Harbor by the British, but they were repulsed by the Americans under General Brown.

Q. By whom was the British brig Peacock captured?

A. By Captain Lawrence, who commanded the Hornet.

Q. To what vessel was Lawrence afterwards transferred?

A. To the Chesapeake.

Q. By whom was the Chesapeake captured?

A. By Captain Broke, who commanded the British frigate Shannon.

Q. What was the fate of Captain Lawrence?

A. He fell mortally wounded in the beginning of the action.

Q. What is related of him?

A. When carried below, wounded and bleeding, he was asked if the colors should be struck; he replied, "No: they shall wave while I live;" and while he was able to speak he would exclaim, "Don't give up the ship!"

Q. What was the most brilliant achievement of this year?

A Perry's victory on Lake Erie

Q. Can you describe the battle?

A. The flag ship of the Americans suffered severely in the beginning of the action, and being in a sinking condition, Perry descended into an open boat, and passing through a shower of balls, transferred his flag to another of his vessels

Q. How long did the battle last?

A. It lasted about three hours.

Q. What was the condition of the British fleet?

A. It was reduced almost to a total wreck.

Q. After this victory what took place?

A. General Harrison embarked his forces, landed on the Canada shores, and defeated the British in the battle of the Thames.

Q. In this battle who was killed?

A. The celebrated Indian chief, Tecumseh, by Colonel Johnson.



Bombardment of Fort M'Henry

## CHAPTER XIII

### *The Late War with England—concluded*

*Q.* WHAT took place in July, 1814?

*A.* General Brown defeated the British in the battle of Chippewa.

*Q.* Who commanded the British

*A.* General Drummond.

*Q.* On the 25th of the same month what took place?

*A.* Generals Brown and Scott defeated the British at the battle of Bridgewater.

*Q.* What took place at Plattsburg, on Lake Champlain?

*A.* A brilliant victory was obtained over the British fleet by the American squadron commanded by Commodore McDonough.

Q. What was the number of men, and guns, on each fleet?

A. The British fleet carried 1,050 men, and 96 guns; while the American force amounted to 820 men and 85 guns.

Q. What was the result of the battle?

A. The British naval force on the Lake was totally destroyed.

Q. While the battle raged on the lake, what took place on land?

A. An attack was made on Plattsburg by the British, under the command of Sir George Prevost, but they were repulsed with a heavy loss.

Q. What took place on the 24th of August?

A. The Americans were defeated at Bladensburg.

Q. Who were the respective commanders?

A. General Ross commanded the British, and General Winder was the American commander.

Q. Who distinguished himself on the part of the Americans in this battle?

A. Commodore Barney, who commanded a small band of marines.

Q. After the battle, what took place?

A. The British marched forward and took possession of the city of Washington.

Q. What buildings were ordered to be burnt by General Ross?

A. The capitol, the treasury, war, and navy offices.

Q. What city was next attacked?

A. The city of Baltimore.

Q. What took place on the 12th of September?

A. The British landed at North Point, below the city, but were repulsed by the Americans under the command of General Stricker.

Q. What was the fate of General Ross?

A. As he advanced at the head of his army he was killed by an American rifleman.

Q. What was done by the British fleet?

A. It bombarded Fort McHenry for about twenty-four hours, without doing any material injury.

Q. What became of the British after the death of General Ross?

A. They abandoned their attempts on Baltimore; and embarking on board their fleet, they moved down the bay.

Q. Previous to this time, what took place?

A. Overtures of peace were made by the Prince Regent of England.

Q. Who were the American commissioners appointed to negotiate a peace?

A. They were Henry Clay, Jonathan Russell, John Quincy Adams, James A. Bayard, and Albert Gallatin.

Q. Where did they meet?

A. They met at Ghent.

Q. While negotiations were in progress, what took place in the South?

A. A large British force under General Packenham, made an attack upon the city of New Orleans.

Q. Who commanded the Americans?

A. General Jackson.

Q. Of what did Jackson make a breastwork



A. Of bales of cotton.

Q. When did the battle of New Orleans take place?

A. On the 8th of January, 1815.

Q. What was the loss of the British?

A. They lost 700 killed, 1,400 wounded, and 00 prisoners.

Q. What was the loss of the Americans?

A. They lost only 7 killed and 6 wounded.

Q. What was the fate of Generals Packenham and Gibbs?

A. They were both mortally wounded.

Q. When was the treaty of peace concluded?

A. On the 24th of December, 1814.

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## CHAPTER XIV.

### *The National Bank, &c*

Q. WHEN was the National Bank re-chartered?

A. In the year 1816, for twenty years, with capital of \$35,000,000.

Q. Who succeeded Mr. Madison?

A. Mr. Monroe, of Virginia, in 1817.

Q. How long had Mr. Madison been President?

A. Eight years.

Q. Where did Mr. Madison retire?

A. He retired to his residence in Virginia, where he died in 1836, at the age of 85 years.

Q. When and by whom was Decatur killed in duels?

A. By Commodore Barron, in 1820.

Q. When and by what nation was Florida ceded to the United States?

A. In the year 1820, by Spain.

Q. What sum was paid for it?

A. Five millions of dollars.

Q. When was a territorial government established over Florida?

A. In the year 1822.

Q. What is the difference between States and territories?

A. States elect their own governors, and send representatives to Congress, and territories do not.

Q. What ratio is at present established for the representation in Congress?

A. At the rate of one representative for ever 93,000 inhabitants.

Q. Therefore, how many inhabitants must a territory have before it can become a State?

A. It must have at least 93,000.

Q. What was the population of the United States in the year 1820?

A. About nine millions five hundred thousand.

Q. When was the colony of Liberia, in Africa, established?

A. In the year 1820.

Q. What is the object of this settlement?

A. It is designed as a place for the colonization of free Africans and emancipated slaves the United States.

Q. What took place in the year 1824?

A. The Marquis de Lafayette visited the United States.

Q. How was he received ?

A. He was received with every demonstration of joy by the people, and Congress voted him two hundred thousand dollars and 25,000 acres of land, as a testimonial of the gratitude of the United States.

Q. Who succeeded Mr. Monroe as President of the United States ?

A. John Quincy Adams, of Massachusetts, in 1825.

Q. For what is the 4th of July, 1826, memorable ?

A. For the death of the two ex-Presidents, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson.

Q. What was their respective ages ?

A. Mr. Adams was 91, and Mr. Jefferson 83 years of age.

Q. By whom was Mr. Adams succeeded in the office of President ?

A. By General Andrew Jackson, in the year 1829.

Q. In 1832 what bill passed both houses of Congress ?

A. A bill for re-chartering the United States Bank.

Q. Was the bill signed by the President ?

A. No : Jackson returned it to the House with his objections, and declared that in his opinion he bank was inexpedient and unconstitutional, and therefore he would never sanction it by his approval.

Q. What was the consequence ?

A. The National Bank, which had existed for

forty-five years, was abolished at the expiration of its charter, in 1836.

Q. By whom was General Jackson succeeded in the office of President?

A. By Martin Van Buren, of New York, in 1837.

Q. How long had Jackson been President?

A. Eight years.

Q. When and where did General Jackson die?

A. On the 8th of June, 1845, at his residence near Nashville, Tennessee, at the age of seventy-eight years.

Q. By what was the administration of Mr Van Buren disturbed?

A. By the war with the Seminole Indians, Florida, who had committed the most fearful depredations on the inhabitants.

Q. What was the name of their most celebrated chief?

A. Osceola.

Q. How was Osceola taken prisoner?

A. He came to the camp of the American under a flag of truce, and was detained by order of General Jessup?

Q. Why was the flag of truce not respected?

A. Because Osceola was treacherous, and could not be bound by any treaty.

Q. When was the Seminole war terminated?

A. It was terminated in the year 1840.

Q. What was the population of the United States in 1840?

A. It amounted to 7,068,666 inhabitants.

Q. By whom was Martin Van Buren succeeded?

A. By General Harrison, in 1841.

Q. Who, at the same time, was elected Vice-President?

A. John Tyler, of Virginia.

Q. How long had Van Buren been President

A. Only four years.

Q. How long did General Harrison occupy the Presidential office?

A. Only one month.

Q. When was he inaugurated?

A. On the 4th of March, 1841.

Q. When and where did he die?

A. On the 4th of the following April, in the presidential mansion at Washington.

Q. On whom did the duties of President devolve?

A. On the Vice-President, Mr. Tyler, who served out the remainder of the term.

Q. In 1842, what important treaty was concluded between the United States and Great Britain?

A. A treaty determining the boundary of Maine.

Q. By whom was it negotiated?

A. By Daniel Webster, Secretary of the United States, and Lord Ashburton, the British Minister.

Q. In 1843, what disturbance occurred in the State of Rhode Island?

A. An attempt was made by the people to

abolish the ancient charter, and to establish a constitution like the other States.

Q. Had Rhode Island no constitution previous to this time?

A. No; she was governed by the charter of Charles II, granted in the year 1663.

Q. What was the result?

A. The constitutional party was unsuccessful and Thomas W. Dorr, whom they had elected governor, was tried, and condemned to imprisonment for life.

Q. Was this sentence carried into execution?

A. It was; but Dorr was pardoned after languishing in prison for several months.

Q. By whom was Mr. Tyler succeeded in the office of President?

A. By James K. Polk, of Tennessee, in 1845.

Q. Who was elected Vice-President?

A. George M. Dallas, of Pennsylvania.



Battle of Buena Vista.

## CHAPTER XV.

## WAR WITH MEXICO.

*Causes of the War—The Battle of Palo Alto—  
Battle of Resaca de la Palma—Battle of Mon-  
terey—Battle of Buena Vista.*

Q. WHAT was one of the principal causes of the war with Mexico?

A. The admission of the Republic of Texas into the Union.

Q. What was Texas formerly?

A. Texas was a Mexican province.

Q. When did it become independent of Mexico?

A. In the year 1836.

Q. What was the chief battle during the war of Texas with Mexico?

A. The battle of San Jacinto, in which Santa Anna, the President of Mexico, was taken prisoner.

Q. When was Texas admitted into the United States?

A. In the year 1845.

Q. How did this act displease Mexico?

A. In the first place, Mexico had never acknowledged the independence of Texas; and secondly, Texas claimed a greater extent of territory than Mexico was willing to admit.

Q. What was the original boundary between the two countries?

A. Mexico held the river Nueces to be the original boundary, but Texas maintained that the Rio Grande, from its source to its mouth, was the correct boundary between the two countries, and consequently claimed the territory between the two rivers.

Q. With what boundary did the United States receive Texas into the Union?

A. With the Rio Grande as the Western boundary.

Q. What followed as a consequence on the admission of Texas?

A. It followed that the United States was compelled to settle with Mexico, the difficulty concerning the disputed territory.

Q. What orders did General Taylor receive?

A. He was directed by the President to take up some position west of the river Nueces, and



to hold himself in readiness to repel any attempt at invasion by Mexico.

Q. When and where was General Taylor born?

A. General Zachary Taylor was born in the year 1790, in Orange county, Virginia.

Q. When did he enter the army?

A. He entered the army in the year 1808 as lieutenant; and during the late war he was promoted to the rank of Major, for his brilliant defence of Fort Harrison.

Q. Where did he afterwards distinguish himself?

A. In the Indian war, in Florida.

Q. When was he promoted to the rank of General?

A. In the year 1840, and was appointed to the command of the army in the South.

Q. When did he receive the rank of Major General?

A. Shortly after the commencement of the Mexican war.

Q. Where did General Taylor take up his position?

A. He crossed the Colorado river, and took up a position at Point Isabel, where he erected fort, called Fort Polk.

Q. What did he do on the 28th of March?

A. He advanced towards the Rio Grande took up a position opposite Matamoras. and erected Fort Brown.

Q. In the mean time, who was sent to Mexico, as commissioner on the part of the United States?

A. Mr. Slidell.

Q. What was the result?

A. The Mexican government would not receive him, and he was compelled to return.

Q. On the 24th of April, what took place?

A. General Arista, the commander of the Mexican forces, informed General Taylor that he considered hostilities already commenced.

Q. On the 29th of April, of what was General Taylor informed?

A. He was informed that Point Isabel was in danger of being taken by the enemy; and he immediately set out to its relief.

Q. During his absence, what happened?

A. Fort Brown was furiously attacked by the Mexicans.

Q. On receiving intelligence of this, what did General Taylor do?

A. He immediately commenced his march back to Fort Brown.

Q. At Palo Alto, what took place?

A. He was met by the Mexicans drawn up in order of battle, and prepared to dispute his progress?

Q. What followed?

A. A severe and obstinate battle followed, in which the Mexicans were defeated.

Q. When did this battle take place?

A. On the 8th of May, 1846.

Q. What was the loss on both sides?

A. The Mexicans lost over 300 killed and wounded; the American loss was 9 killed, and 12 wounded.

THE UNITED STATES.

Q. Among the Americans, what distinguished man was killed?

A. Major Ringgold, the commander of the flying artillery.

Q. When and where was the next battle fought?

A. On the next day, at a place called Resaca de la Palma.

Q. What was the issue of this battle?

A. The Mexicans were again defeated, and fled with precipitation across the river to Matamoras.

Q. By what was this battle distinguished?

A. It was distinguished by the desperate charge of Captain May, who, at the head of his dragoons, rode up to the very mouth of the enemy's cannon, silenced the batteries, and took General Vega prisoner.

Q. What did the Mexicans lose?

A. They lost the whole of their artillery, 2,000 stand of arms, 600 mules, with the private papers of General Arista.

Q. What was the loss on both sides?

A. The Mexicans lost 800 in killed and wounded, while the Americans lost 39 killed and 82 wounded.

Q. When did General Taylor take possession of the city of Matamoras?

A. On the 18th of May.

Q. Where did General Taylor next direct his march?

A. To Monterey, the capital of New Leon, a city situated about 170 miles from Matamoras.

Q. What took place at this city?

A. A severe battle took place, which continued with but little intermission for three days.

Q. What was the issue of the battle?

A. The Mexicans were defeated, and the city surrendered to General Taylor.

Q. What was the number of the Mexican army?

A. It numbered about 10,000 men while the forces under General Taylor amounted to only 6,000.

Q. What was the loss on both sides?

A. The Americans lost about 267 killed, and 456 wounded; the Mexicans lost nearly 2,000 killed and wounded.

Q. When did this battle take place?

A. It commenced on the 21st and ended on the 23d of September, 1846.

Q. Where was the next battle fought?

A. At a place called Buena Vista.

Q. Who commanded the Mexicans in this battle?

A. General Santa Anna.

Q. What was the number of the forces on each side?

A. The Mexicans amounted to about 20,000 men, while the forces under General Taylor amounted only to 5,000.

Q. What was the issue of the battle?

A. The Mexicans were defeated with a loss of nearly 2,000 in killed and wounded.

Q. What was General Taylor's loss?

A. He lost 267 killed, and 456 wounded.

Q. Can you mention the names of some of our officers who fell ?

A. Yes ; among them were Colonels McKee, Iarden, Fell, Davis, and Clay.

Q. When did this battle take place ?

A. It took place on the morning of the 23 of February, 1847.

Q. Can you relate any incident of this battle.

A. While the battle raged in all its fury, Mr. Crittenden was sent with some message to the Mexican camp ; while there, General Santa Anna told him if General Taylor would surrender, he would be protected. Crittenden coolly replied, "*General Taylor never surrenders.*"

Q. While these things were going on, what other achievements were accomplished ?

A. General Kearney, after a march of nearly one thousand miles through the wilderness, entered the city of Santa Fé, and took formal possession of New Mexico, without opposition.



Battle of Cerro Gordo.

## CHAPTER XVI.

### WAR WITH MEXICO—CONTINUED.

*General Scott—Surrender of Vera Cruz—Battle of Cerro Gordo—Battle of Contreras—Battle of Churubusco—Surrender of the City of Mexico.*

*Q.* In the mean time what took place?

*A.* In the mean time General Scott was ordered to take command of the forces of the United States in Mexico

*Q.* When and where was General Scott born?

*A.* General Winfield Scott was born in the year 1786, near Petersburg, in Virginia.

Q. When did he receive a commission in the army?

A. In the year 1808, he received a captain's commission, and by his bravery and talents he has risen to his present distinguished post of commander-in-chief of the United States forces.

Q. What was the first operation of General Scott after he arrived in Mexico?

A. His first operations were directed against the city of Vera Cruz.

Q. When and by whom was the city of Vera Cruz founded?

A. It was founded in the year 1519 by Hernando Cortez, the early conqueror of Mexico.

Q. By what celebrated fortress was the city defended?

A. By the castle of San Juan de Ulloa, situated on a small island opposite the city.

Q. How did General Scott effect the reduction of the city?

A. He landed his troops below the city and placed his batteries in such a position that the place was soon compelled to surrender.

Q. Before commencing operations, what did he do?

A. He sent a summons to the Mexican commander to surrender the city, at the same time permitting all the inhabitants who desired it to retire with their property.

Q. When did the city surrender?

A. On the 27th of March, 1847.

Q. After the capture of Vera Cruz, where did General Scott direct his march?

A. Towards the middle of April, he left Vera Cruz, and directed his march towards the city of Mexico.

Q. Where did the Mexicans assemble to oppose his march?

A. At a place called Cerro Gordo.

Q. What followed?

A. A desperate battle followed, in which the Mexicans were again defeated.

Q. What was the loss on each side?

A. The Mexicans lost 1,200 in killed and wounded; the loss on the part of our army, amounted to 63 killed, and 368 wounded.

Q. How many Mexicans were taken prisoners?

A. About 3,000, and among them were 288 officers, and 5 generals.

Q. What is related of Santa Anna?

A. He escaped from the field of battle, leaving his carriage, and even his wooden leg, in the hands of the enemy.

Q. When did this battle take place?

A. On the 17th and 18th of April, 1847.

Q. After this battle what did General Scott do?

A. Without delay, he marched forward, and took possession of the cities of Jalapa, Perote and finally that of Puebla.

Q. Where are the cities of Jalapa and Perote?

A. Jalapa is situated on the road to the city of Mexico, about fifty miles from Vera Cruz and Perote is situated about sixty miles from the coast, and was defended by a strong fortress.

Q. What did the Americans obtain by the surrender of this city?



A The fortress was abandoned at the approach of the Americans, leaving behind 64 pieces of cannon, 11,065 cannon balls, 14,300 bombs, and 500 muskets.

Q. Where is Puebla situated?

A. Puebla is situated about sixty miles from the city of Mexico, and one hundred and eighty-six from Vera Cruz. It is a very handsome city, and contains about 80,000 inhabitants.

Q. Where did the next battle take place?

A. At a place called Contreras.

Q. Where is Contreras?

A. It is a lofty eminence, not far from the city of Mexico.

Q. What was the issue of the battle?

A. The Mexicans were defeated with a loss of 700 killed, and 813 taken prisoners.

Q. When did this battle take place?

A. On the 20th of August, 1847.

Q. What place was next attacked?

A. The fortifications of Churubusco.

Q. How was the place defended?

A. It was defended by General Santa Anna at the head of 25,000 men, strongly intrenched.

Q. Describe the battle?

A. The battle, which continued three hours, was furious in the extreme; at length the scale of victory turned in favor of the Americans. The Mexicans fled, leaving their fortifications in the hands of the enemy.

Q. What was the loss on each side?

A. The Mexicans lost 600 in killed and wounded, and 1,100 prisoners; but the Ameri-

can loss amounted to over 1,000 in killed and wounded.

Q. When did this battle take place?

A. On the 20th of August, the same day with the battle of Contreras.

Q. After the battle, what did Gen. Scott do

A. He proposed an armistice, that the Mexican government might treat with our commissioner, Mr. Trist.

Q. Was the armistice accepted?

A. It was; but General Scott, finding that the Mexicans were secretly fortifying the city, declared the armistice at an end, after it had continued about 12 days.

Q. What followed?

A. Hostilities were immediately renewed with redoubled energy on both sides.

Q. What was the first place of attack after the renewal of hostilities?

A. A strong fortress called Molino del Rey or the King's Mill.

Q. How was it defended?

A. It was defended by ten pieces of artillery, and 10,000 men.

Q. What was the number of our forces?

A. About 4,000 men.

Q. What was the issue of the battle?

A. After a dreadful conflict of three hours the Mexicans fled, leaving the fortress in the hands of the Americans.

Q. What place was next attacked?

A. The fortress of Chapultepec, which was considered as the key to the city of Mexico.

Q. What was the result?

A. After a bloody contest of several hours, the fortress was surrendered to the valor of our arms.

Q. What followed the taking of this fortress?

A. It was followed by the reduction of the city of Mexico.

Q. When did this event take place?

A. On the morning of the 15th of September 1847, our troops entered the city, and at 7 o'clock, our banner, for the first time, waved in triumph over the Mexican capital.

Q. Where is the city of Mexico situated?

A. The city of Mexico is situated in a beautiful valley, about 252 miles from Vera Cruz. It stands upon nearly the same ground as that of the ancient city which was conquered by Cortez.

Q. What is its present population?

A. It contains about 200,000 inhabitants.

Q. When our troops entered the city what became of General Santa Anna?

A. The night previous to its surrender, he escaped, and retired to Guadalupe.

Q. When and where was a treaty of peace concluded?

A. On the 2d of February, 1848, a treaty of peace was signed by the commissioners of both nations, at the city of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

Q. When and where was it ratified?

A. It was ratified by both governments on the 30th of May, 1848, at Queretaro.

Q. By this treaty what is the present boundary between the two republics?

A. The boundary line commences in the Gulf

of Mexico, three leagues from land, and proceed thence up the middle of the Rio Grande to the southern boundary of Mexico; thence to its western termination; thence along its western line until it intersects the river Gila; thence down that river until it empties into the Rio Colorado then across the Colorado, following the line of division between Upper and Lower California to the Pacific ocean.

Q. What territory did the United States acquire by this treaty?

A. The whole of New Mexico and Upper California.

Q. By whom was James K. Polk succeeded in the office of President?

A. By General Zachary Taylor.

Q. How long was General Taylor President?

A. He succeeded Mr. Polk on the fourth of March, in 1849, and died on the 9th of July, 1850, having been President one year, four months, and four days.

Q. Who then succeeded in the Presidency?

A. Millard Fillmore, of New York.

Q. When was California admitted into the Union?

A. In 1850, making the number of the States thirty-one.

Q. Who succeeded Mr. Fillmore in the office of President?

A. Franklin Pierce, of New Hampshire.

Q. Who was elected Vice-President?

A. William R. King, of Alabama, who died shortly after his election

## GENERAL QUESTIONS

ON THE

# Constitution of the United States

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Q. WHAT is the Constitution of the United States?

A. It is a written instrument containing the general laws that govern the States in the relation they bear to each other.

Q. According to the constitution, of what branches does the Congress of the United States consist?

A. In a Senate and House of Representatives.

Q. Of what persons is the Senate composed?

A. It is composed of two Senators from each State.

Q. In what manner and for what period are they chosen?

A. They are generally chosen by the Legislature of their respective States, and serve for term of six years.

Q. How are they divided?

A. They are divided into three classes.

Q. How are their seats vacated?

A. The seats of the first class are vacated at the expiration of two years; the seats of the second class at the expiration of four years; and

those of the third class at the expiration of six years, so that one-third are chosen every second year.

Q. When vacancies occur in the Senate during the recess of the Legislature of any State, how are they filled?

A. They are filled by the Governor of the State where the vacancy occurs.

Q. How old must a man be before he can serve as Senator?

A. He must have attained the age of thirty-five years.

Q. Who is the President of the Senate?

A. The Vice-President of the United States.

Q. Of what persons is the House of Representatives composed?

A. It is composed of members chosen by the people of the several States, every second year.

Q. What are the qualifications necessary for a representative?

A. He must be twenty-five years of age, and a citizen of the United States, also an inhabitant of the State in which he is chosen.

Q. What number of inhabitants sends one representative to Congress?

A. The number of inhabitants assigned to one member of Congress is at present about 93,000.

Q. How is the Speaker of the House of Representatives chosen?

A. By the majority of the votes of the members of the House.

Q. What compensation do the members of the Senate and House of Representatives receive?

A. They receive each eight dollars a day while Congress is in session.

Q. When and where does Congress meet?

A. In the city of Washington, on the first Monday of December, each year.

Q. What privileges have the Senators and Representatives?

A. They are privileged from arrest in all cases, except treason, felony, and breach of the peace, during their attendance at the session of their respective houses, and in going to and returning from the same.

Q. Can you mention the chief powers of Congress?

A. Congress has power to lay and collect taxes, duties, and imports; to pay debts, and provide for the defence and welfare of the Union. To borrow money; to regulate commerce; to coin money and regulate the value thereof; to establish uniform naturalization laws; to establish post offices and post roads; to declare war; to raise and support armies; to provide and maintain a navy; and make all laws which shall be necessary for carrying into execution all the powers vested by the constitution in the government of the United States.

Q. Can Congress make any law respecting religion?

A. No; Congress can make no law respecting religion, or to prohibit the free exercise thereof.

Q. In what else is Congress restricted?

A. Congress cannot pass any laws abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or to pre-

vent the people from assembling peaceably, or to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Q. In whom is the executive power vested?

A. In the President of the United States.

Q. What are the necessary qualifications of a candidate for the office of President?

A. He must be a natural-born citizen, over thirty-five years of age, and fourteen years a resident within the United States.

Q. How is the President chosen?

A. The people of the different States elect persons called *electors*, who vote for the President and Vice-President.

Q. Where, and in what manner do the electors vote?

A. They vote in their respective States, then seal and transmit the result to the seat of government, directed to the President of the Senate of the United States; and the person having the highest number of votes for President, is declared President: and the person having the highest number of votes for Vice-President, is declared Vice-President.

Q. How often does an election take place for President and Vice-President?

A. Every four years, but they may be re-elected.

Q. In case of the removal of the President from office, by death or any other cause, on whom shall the duties of the President devolve?

A. On the Vice-President, who becomes President, and shall serve out the term the President had to serve.



Q In case of the death, or removal from office of both President and Vice-President, on whom would the duties of the office devolve?

A. The Congress would be obliged to declare what officer should act as President, until a President could be elected.

Q. What salary does the President receive annually?

A. Twenty-five thousand dollars.

Q. What does the Vice-President receive?

A. Sixteen dollars per day.

Q. Before entering on the duties of his office, what oath does the President take?

A. The following: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of the President of the United States, and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States."

Q. What are the chief powers invested in the President?

A. The President is commander-in-chief of the army and navy of the United States; he has power to grant reprieves and pardons for offences against the United States. He has power, with consent of the Senate, to make treaties, to appoint ambassadors, consuls and other public ministers, judges of the Supreme Court, &c., and to fill all vacancies that may happen during the recess of the Senate: he may, on extraordinary occasions, convene both houses of Congress, and in case of a disagreement between them as to the time of adjournment, he may adjourn them to such time as he may think proper.

Q. For what offences may the President and Vice-President be removed from office ?

A. For treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors.

Q. In what is the judicial power of the United States vested ?

A. In one Supreme Court, and such inferior Courts as Congress may think proper to establish

Q. How long do the judges of the United States' Courts hold their offices ?

A. For life, or during good behaviour.

Q. What is the extent of their powers ?

A. Their power extends to all cases in law and equity arising under the Constitution, the laws of the States, and treaties made under their authority.

Q. What does the Constitution say concerning new States ?

A. It provides that new States may be admitted into the Union by the consent of Congress.

Q. What does the Constitution guarantee to each of the States ?

A. It guarantees to each a republican form of government, and to protect each against foreign invasion and domestic violence.

Q. How may the Constitution be amended ?

A. It may be altered or amended by the votes of two-thirds of both houses, at any session of Congress : or, on the application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the several States, Congress would be obliged to call a convention to alter or amend the Constitution.

## GENERAL QUESTIONS

*On the Constitutions and Government of the principal States of the Union.*

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### MAINE.

Q. How is the *legislative* power of this State divided?

A. It is divided into two branches; a senate and house of representatives.

Q. How are the senators and representatives chosen?

A. They are elected by the qualified voters of the districts into which the State may be, from time to time, divided.

Q. What are their qualifications?

A. They must be citizens of the State one year, and 25 years of age.

Q. In whom is the *executive* authority placed?

A. In a governor, who is elected by the people, and holds his office for one year.

Q. What are his qualifications?

A. He must be a citizen of the State for one year, and 30 years of age.

Q. What is said of the *judiciary*?

A. The judiciary is vested in a supreme court and such other courts as the legislature may establish?

Q. How are the judges created?

A. They are appointed by the governor, and hold their office during good behaviour, but not beyond the age of 75 years.

Q. What is said of the right of *suffrage*?

A. The right of suffrage is granted to every male citizen of 21 years of age and upwards, who has resided in the State for three years previous to the election.

## NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Q. What is said of the *legislature*?

A. The legislature is divided into two branches, styled the *General Court of New Hampshire*.

Q. What must be the qualifications of representatives?

A. They must have been inhabitants two years, and have an estate of \$333 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ ; one-half of which must be freehold.

Q. What are the qualifications of senators?

A. Persons eligible to the senate, must have a freehold of \$666 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ ; be 30 years of age, and have resided in the State for seven years.

Q. What are the qualifications of governor?

A. He must have an estate of \$1,666 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ ; one-half of which must be freehold; and a residence in the State of seven years. A council of five is elected by the people to advise and assist the governor.

Q. What is said of the *judiciary*?

A. The judiciary is the same as in Maine, except the age of the judges is limited to 70 years.

Q. What is said of the *right of suffrage*?

A. This right is granted to all male citizens of 21 years of age and upwards, paupers and persons excused from paying taxes, excepted

## VERMONT.

Q. What is said of the *legislature*?

A. The legislature consists of two branches,  
• *yled the General Assembly of Vermont.*

Q. What are the qualifications of senators and representatives?

A. Two years' residence in the State, and one year in the township which they represent. No property qualification is required.

Q. In whom is the *executive* authority placed?

A. In the governor, and a council of twelve elected by the people.

Q. What is said of the *judiciary*?

A. The judiciary consists of a Supreme Court of five judges, and a County Court of three judges for each county.

Q. How do they receive their appointment?

A. They are elected by the legislature.

Q. What may be said of the right of *suffrage*?

A. The right of suffrage is extended to all male citizens of the age of 21 years and upwards, who have resided one year in the State.

## MASSACHUSETTS.

Q. What is the legislature of this State styled

A. The General Court of Massachusetts.

Q. What are the qualifications of representatives and senators?

A. Representatives must have resided one year in the town in which they are chosen, and possess a freehold of \$333 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ , or taxable pro-

perty to the amount of \$666 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ . Senators must have resided five years in the district in which they are chosen, and possess a freehold of \$1,000, or taxable property of \$2,000.

Q. In whom is the *executive* authority placed

A. In a governor, a lieutenant governor, and council of nine. The governor and lieutenant governor must have resided seven years in the State, and must possess a freehold of \$333 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ .

Q. What is said of the judiciary?

A. The judiciary of this State consists of a Supreme Court and Courts of Common Pleas. The judges are appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of his council, and hold their office for life, or during good behaviour.

Q. What is said of the right of suffrage?

A. This right extends to all the male citizens of 21 years of age and upwards, who have resided in the State one year, and six months in the district in which they claim a right to vote, and who have paid a tax to the State within two years, unless exempted from taxation.

## CONNECTICUT.

Q. How is the legislature of this State divided

A. Into two branches, styled the *General Assembly of Connecticut*.

Q. Who is invested with the *executive* power

A. The governor, who must be 30 years of age to render him eligible.

Q. What may be said of the *judiciary* of this State?

A. The judiciary consists of a supreme court of errors, a superior court, and such other courts as the legislature may from time to time establish.

Q. What may be observed of the right of suffrage?

A. This right extends to all white male citizens of 21 years of age and upwards, who have resided in the State six months, and have a freehold of \$7 yearly value, or who have paid a tax or performed military duty for one year.

## RHODE ISLAND.

Q. What is said of the legislature of this State?

A. The two branches are styled the *General Assembly*; and when acting jointly, they are styled the *Grand Committee*.

Q. In whom is the executive power placed?

A. In a governor and lieutenant governor, who are annually elected by the people: the former of whom, is president of the senate.

Q. What is said of the *judiciary*?

A. The judiciary consists of one supreme court, and such other inferior courts as the legislature may ordain. The judges are elected by the Grand Committee, and hold their office during good behaviour.

Q. What is said of the right of suffrage?

A. The right of suffrage extends to every male citizen of the United States, of twenty-one years of age and upwards, who has resided two years in the State and six months in the place where he intends to vote.

Q. What qualifications are required of voters?

A. A citizen, to be entitled to a vote, must have registered his name at the office of the town or city clerk at least seven days before the election; must have paid within a year a tax of one dollar, or have done military duty at least one day within the year preceding the election.

Q. What is required of naturalized citizens

A. In addition to the foregoing qualifications, naturalized citizens are required to possess real estate in the city or town worth \$134 over all incumbrances; or other property which rents for \$7 per annum.

## NEW YORK.

Q. What is said of the *legislature* of this State?

A. In the house of representatives, called the *Assembly*, the members are chosen by counties and are apportioned according to the population. The senators are chosen by districts.

Q. What are the qualifications of governor and lieutenant governor?

A. They are required to be native born citizens and freeholders, of thirty years of age, and have resided in the State five years.

Q. How is the *judiciary* regulated?

A. The judiciary consists of a supreme court, and circuit and county courts. The judges of all the courts are appointed by the governor, and hold their office during good behaviour, but not after they are sixty years of age, except the



magistrates of the county courts, who are only appointed for five years.

Q. What may be observed of the right of suffrage ?

A. This right extends to all white male citizens, who have resided in the State one year and six months in the county in which they intend to vote, provided they have paid a county or State tax within one year, or performed military duty. Colored men have a right to vote if they have resided in the State three years, and possess a freehold to the value of \$250.

## NEW JERSEY.

Q. What may be observed of the legislature of this State ?

A. It is vested in a council and general assembly.

Q. What are the qualifications of the members ?

A. The council consists of one member from each county, who must be worth \$3,333  $33\frac{1}{3}$ ; the members of the assembly are elected from the counties, and must be worth \$1,666  $66\frac{2}{3}$ .

Q. Who is the executive officer ?

A. The governor, who is president of the council, and chancellor of the State.

Q. How are the judges chosen ?

A. By the legislature ; those of the supreme court for seven years, but the other judges for a shorter period.

Q. What is said of the right of suffrage ?

A. This right extends to all citizens who have

resided in the State one year, and five months in the township in which they claim to vote.

## PENNSYLVANIA.

*Q.* What is said of the legislature?

*A.* The legislature consists of two houses styled the *General Assembly*.

*Q.* What are the qualifications of the members?

*A.* Senators must be twenty-five years of age, and have been citizens and inhabitants of the State four years; representatives require the same qualifications.

*Q.* In whom is the executive power placed?

*A.* In a Governor, who must be thirty years of age; he holds his office for three years.

*Q.* What may be said of the judiciary of this State?

*A.* The judiciary consists of one supreme court and several inferior courts. The judges and chief officers of the courts are elected by the people.

*Q.* To whom does the right of suffrage extend?

*A.* This right extends to all white male citizens who have resided two years in the State and who pay taxes.

## DELAWARE

*Q.* What may be said of the government of this State?

*A.* The government of this State is nearly the same as that of Pennsylvania except that the

Judges and State officers generally are appointed by the governor.

## MARYLAND.

Q. What is the legislature of this State styled

A. The two branches of the legislature are styled the *General Assembly of Maryland*.

Q. What are the qualifications requisite for senators and representatives?

A. They must be citizens of the United States, and have resided three years in the State, and one year in the county or city which they represent; a senator must be twenty-five, and a representative twenty-one years of age.

Q. In whom is the executive authority vested?

A. In a governor, who is elected for a term of four years.

Q. What are the qualifications of governor

A. He must be thirty years of age, and a citizen of the United States for five years, five successive years a resident of the State, and three years a resident of the district from which he is selected.

Q. What may be observed of the judiciary of Maryland?

A. The judiciary consists of a court of appeals circuit courts, and courts for the city of Baltimore. The judges and all the principal officers of the courts are elected by the people.

Q. For what period are the judges elected?

A. For ten years, except the judges of the orphan's court, who are to serve four years

Q. What is said of the *right of suffrage*?

A. This right extends to all the white male citizens, who have resided in the State one year and six months in the county or city where they intend to vote.

## VIRGINIA.

Q. Of what does the *legislature* consist?

A. It consists of a senate and house of representatives, styled the *General Assembly of Virginia*.

Q. Who exercises the executive authority?

A. The executive authority is vested in a governor and a council of three, the elder of whom is lieutenant governor.

Q. What do you observe of the *judiciary*?

A. The judges and the attorney general are chosen by the joint vote of both houses, and hold their office during good behaviour.

Q. What is said of the *right of suffrage*?

A. This right extends to all white male citizens of legal age, who hold a freehold of \$25, or who are house-keepers, or heads of families, and pay taxes. The voting is by *viva voce*, and not by ballot.

## NORTH CAROLINA.

Q. Of what is the legislature of this State composed?

A. It is composed of a senate and house of commons, styled together the *General Assembly*.

Q. How are the members chosen?

A. Each county elects one senator and two representatives, who must be freeholders, and have a residence of one year.

Q. In whom is the executive power vested?

A. In a council of seven, and in a governor, who must be a freeholder, thirty years of age and resident of five years.

Q. What is said of the judges?

A. The judges are elected by the legislature, and hold their office during good behaviour.

Q. What may be said of the right of suffrage?

A. This right extends to all white male citizens. Those who pay taxes, are entitled to vote for members of the house of commons; but it requires a man to possess a freehold of 50 acres of land to entitle him to vote for senators.

### SOUTH CAROLINA.

Q. What is the nature of the constitution of this State?

A. The constitution of this State is very similar to that of North Carolina. The governor alone, is the executive officer; a lieutenant governor is also elected, but he has no power unless the office of Governor becomes vacant.

### GEORGIA.

Q. What may be said of the legislature of this State?

A. The members of the senate and house are elected from the counties, according to the white population, and adding thereto, two-fifths of the people of colour.

Q. What are the qualifications of representatives and senators?

A. Representatives must be 21 years of age, 7 years a citizen of the United States, 3 of the State of Georgia, and possess a freehold of \$200 or taxable property worth \$500; Senators must be 25 years of age, 9 years citizens of the United States, and possess a freehold of \$500, or \$2,000 worth of taxable property.

Q. What are the qualifications of the governor?

A. He must be 30 years of age, and a freeholder of 600 acres of land, or other property to the amount of \$4,000.

Q. How are the judges chosen?

A. They are elected by the legislature for a term of three years.

Q. What is said of the right of suffrage?

A. This right extends to all white male citizens of 21 years and upwards, who pay taxes

## KENTUCKY.

Q. How is the legislature divided?

A. Into two houses, styled the *General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky*.

Q. Who are the executive officers?

A. The governor and lieutenant governor, the latter of whom is president of the senate.

Q. What is said of the judiciary?

A. The judiciary is the same as in Massachusetts.

Q. To whom does the right of suffrage extend?

A. This right extends to all white male citizens of legal age

Q. What State has a constitution similar to Kentucky?

A. Tennessee; only the judges are elected by the legislature.

## OHIO.

Q. In what is the legislative authority of this State vested?

A. In a *General Assembly*, which consists of a senate and house of representatives.

Q. What are the necessary qualifications of a senator or representative?

A. A senator must be 35 years of age, two years within the county from which he is elected, and have paid a state or county tax. A representative must be 25 years of age, a resident of the county from which he is chosen, and have paid a state or county tax.

Q. In whom is the executive power vested?

A. In a governor, who must be 30 years of age.

Q. What is said of the judiciary?

A. The judiciary of this State is vested in a supreme court and courts of common pleas, the judges of which are elected by the legislature.

Q. What is said of the right of suffrage?

A. This right extends to all white male citizens of legal age, who have paid a State or county tax.

## INDIANA.

Q. What is said of the legislature?

A. It is styled the *General Assembly*, the members of which are elected from the counties.

according to the number of white male inhabitants of twenty-one years of age.

Q. What are the qualifications of the governor?

A. He must be thirty years of age, and four years a resident of the State.

Q. What is said of the judiciary?

A. The judiciary consists of a supreme court of three judges, and circuit courts of two judges; all the judges hold their office for seven years.

Q. How are they appointed?

A. The judges of the supreme court are appointed by the governor and senate; those of the circuit courts are elected by the people.

Q. What is said of the right of suffrage?

A. It is the same as in Ohio.

Q. What State has a constitution nearly the same as Indiana?

A. Louisiana.

## MISSISSIPPI.

Q. Of what does the legislature consist?

A. It consists of a senate and house of representatives, styled the *General Assembly*.

Q. What are the qualifications of the members?

A. The senators must be twenty-six years of age, have resided in the State four years, and possess a freehold or other taxable property worth \$1,000. The representatives must be twenty-two years of age, have resided two years in the State, and possess a freehold of \$500.

Q. What are the qualifications of governor?

A. He must be thirty years of age, a citizen



twenty, a resident in the State five years, and have a freehold worth \$2,000.

Q. What is said of the judicial power?

A. The judicial power is vested in a court of appeals, and superior courts, and circuit courts.

Q. How are the judges appointed?

A. The judges are elected by the people for a term of six years.

Q. What may be observed of the right of suffrage?

A. This right extends to all male citizens of the age of 21 years and upwards, who have resided in the State one year, and six months in the county or city in which they intend to vote.

Q. What States have constitutions similar to Mississippi?

A. The States of Illinois, Arkansas, Michigan, Alabama, Missouri, and Texas. The government of the other States is similar to that of Ohio.

Q. What States have abolished imprisonment for debt?

A. The States of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Ohio.

Q. What persons are generally excluded from voting in the United States?

A. Paupers, convicts, persons of insane mind, Indians not taxed, and colored persons generally, except in some few States.

# DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

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IN CONGRESS, July 4th, 1776.

## THE UNANIMOUS DECLARATION OF THE THIRTEEN UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

WHEN, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident: That all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these colonies, and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former systems of government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these States. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his assent to laws the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his governors to pass laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his assent should be obtained; and when so suspended he has utterly neglected to attend to them. He has refused to pass other laws

for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of representation in the legislature—a right inestimable to them, and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the repository of their public records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved representative houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused, for a long time after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected, whereby the legislative powers, incapable of annihilation, have returned to the people at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without and convulsions within.

He has endeavored to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the laws for naturalization of foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migration hither, and raising the conditions of new appropriations of lands.

He has obstructed the administration of justice, by refusing his assent to laws for establishing judiciary powers.

He has made judges dependent on his will alone for the tenure of their offices and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of new offices, and sent hither swarms of officers, to harass our people and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, standing armies, without the consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the military independent of, and superior to, the civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his assent to their acts of pretended legislation:

For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock trial, from punishment for any murders which they should commit on the inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing taxes on us without our consent:

For depriving us, in many cases, of the benefits of trial by jury:

For transporting us beyond seas, to be tried for pretended offences:

For abolishing the free system of English laws in a neighboring province, establishing therein an arbitrary government, and enlarging its boundaries, so as to render it at once an example and instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these colonies:

For taking away our charters, abolishing our most valuable laws, and altering fundamentally the forms of our governments:

For suspending our own legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated government here, by declaring us out of his protection, and waging war against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation, and tyranny already begun with circumstances of cruelty and perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow-citizens, taken captive on the high seas to bear arms against their country, to become the executioners of their friends and brethren, or to fall themselves by their hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers the merciless Indian savages, whose known rule of warfare is undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes, and conditions.

In every stage of these oppressions we have petitioned for redress in the most humble terms. Our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have we been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them, from time to time, of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our migration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connexions and correspondence. They, too, have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity which denounces our separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind—enemies in war, in peace friends.

WE, therefore, the representatives of the United States of America, in general Congress assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name and by the authority of the good people of these colonies, solemnly publish and declare, that these united colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British crown, and that all political connexion between them and the state of Great Britain is and ought to be, totally dissolved, and that, as free and independent States, they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which independent states may of right do. And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.

JOHN HANCOCK

# A TABLE

*habiting the Birth-place and Age of each of the  
Signers of the Declaration of Independence.*

	State and Name.	Born.	Died.	Age	Native of
N. HAM.	John Hancock . . . . .	1737	1793	56	Massachusetts.
	Josiah Bartlett, . . . . .	1729	1795	65	Massachusetts
	William Whipple, . . . .	1730	1785	55	Maine.
	Matthew Thornton, . . .	1714	1803	89	Ireland.
MASS.	Samuel Adams, . . . . .	1722	1803	81	Massachusetts.
	John Adams, . . . . .	1735	1826	91	Massachusetts.
	Robert T. Paine, . . . .	1731	1814	83	Massachusetts.
	Elbridge Gerry, . . . . .	1744	1814	70	Massachusetts.
R. I.	Stephen Hopkins, . . . .	1707	1785	78	Rhode Island.
	William Ellery, . . . . .	1727	1820	93	Rhode Island.
CONN.	Roger Sherman, . . . . .	1721	1793	72	Massachusetts
	Samuel Huntington, . . .	1732	1796	64	Connecticut.
	William Williams, . . . .	1731	1811	80	Connecticut.
	Oliver Wolcott, . . . . .	1736	1797	71	Connecticut
N. YORK	William Floyd, . . . . .	1734	1821	87	New York.
	Philip Livingston, . . . .	1716	1778	62	New York.
	Francis Lewis, . . . . .	1713	1803	90	England.
	Lewis Morris, . . . . .	1726	1798	72	New York.
N. JERSEY	Richard Stockton, . . . .	1730	1781	51	New Jersey.
	John Witherspoon, . . . .	1723	1794	72	Scotland.
	Francis Hopkinson, . . . .	1737	1791	54	Pennsylvania.
	John Hart, . . . . .	1714	1780	66	New Jersey.
	Abraham Clarke, . . . . .	1726	1794	68	New Jersey.
PENNSYLVANIA.	Robert Morris, . . . . .	1733	1806	73	England.
	Benjamin Rush, . . . . .	1745	1813	68	Pennsylvania.
	Benjamin Franklin, . . . .	1706	1790	84	Massachusetts.
	John Morton, . . . . .	1724	1777	53	Pennsylvania.
	George Clymer, . . . . .	1739	1813	74	Pennsylvania.
	James Smith, . . . . .	1720	1806	86	Ireland.
	George Taylor, . . . . .	1716	1781	65	Ireland.
	James Wilson, . . . . .	1742	1798	56	Scotland
	George Ross, . . . . .	1730	1780	50	Delaware
DEL.	Cæsar Rodney, . . . . .	1730	1783	53	Delaware
	George Read, . . . . .	1734	1798	64	Maryland.
	Thomas McKean, . . . . .	1734	1817	83	Pennsylvania.

6. SIGNERS OF DECLARATION.

	State and Name.	Born.	Died.	Age	Native of
MARY'D	Samuel Chase, . . . . .	1741	1811	70	Maryland.
	William Paca, . . . . .	1740	1799	59	Maryland.
	Thomas Stone, . . . . .	1743	1787	44	Maryland.
	Charles Carroll, . . . . .	1737	1833	95	Maryland.
VIRGINIA	George Wythe, . . . . .	1726	1800	74	Virginia.
	Richard H. Lee, . . . . .	1732	1794	62	Virginia.
	Thomas Jefferson, . . . . .	1743	1826	83	Virginia.
	Benjamin Harrison, . . . . .	1736	1791	55	Virginia.
	Thomas Nelson, . . . . .	1738	1789	51	Virginia.
	Francis L. Lee, . . . . .	1734	1797	63	Virginia.
	Carter Braxton, . . . . .	1736	1797	61	Virginia.
N. C.	William Hooper, . . . . .	1742	1790	48	Massachusetts
	Joseph Hewes, . . . . .	1730	1779	49	New Jersey
	John Penn, . . . . .	1741	1788	47	Virginia
S. CAR.	Edward Rutledge, . . . . .	1749	1800	51	South Carolina.
	Thomas Heyward, Jr. . . . .	1746	1809	63	South Carolina.
	Thomas Lynch, . . . . .	1749	1779	30	South Carolina.
	Arthur Middleton, . . . . .	1743	1788	45	South Carolina.
GEO.	Burton Gwinnet, . . . . .	1732	1777	45	England.
	Lyman Hall, . . . . .	1721	1784	63	Connecticut.
	George Walton, . . . . .	1740	1804	64	Virginia.

## CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE

*Of the Presidents and other Principal Officers of the United States, since the adoption of the Constitution.*

### PRESIDENTS

GEORGE WASHINGTON, of Virginia, inaugurated.....	1789
John Adams, of Massachusetts.....	1797
Thomas Jefferson, of Virginia.....	1801
James Madison, of Virginia.....	1809
James Monroe, of Virginia.....	1817
John Q. Adams, of Massachusetts.....	1823
Andrew Jackson, of Tennessee.....	1829
Martin Van Buren, of New York.....	1837
William Henry Harrison, of Ohio.....	1841
John Tyler, of Virginia.....	1841
James K. Polk, of Tennessee.....	1845
Zachary Taylor, of Louisiana.....	1849
Millard Fillmore, of New York.....	1850
Franklin Pierce, of New Hampshire.....	1853

### VICE-PRESIDENTS.

John Adams, of Massachusetts.....	1789
Thomas Jefferson, of Virginia.....	1797
Aaron Burr, of New York.....	1801
George Clinton, of New York.....	1805
Elbridge Gerry, of Massachusetts.....	1812
Daniel D. Tompkins, of New York.....	1817
John C. Calhoun, of South Carolina.....	1825
Martin Van Buren, of New York.....	1833
Richard M. Johnson, of Kentucky.....	1837
John Tyler, of Virginia.....	1841
George M. Dallas, of Pennsylvania.....	1845
Millard Fillmore, of New York.....	1849
William R. King, of Georgia.....	1850

### SECRETARIES OF STATE

Thomas Jefferson, of Virginia, appointed.....	1789
Edmund Randolph, of Virginia.....	1794
Timothy Pickens, of Virginia.....	1795
John Marshall, of Virginia.....	1800
James Madison, of Virginia.....	1801
Robert Smith, of Maryland.....	1809

James Monroe, of Virginia,.....	1811
John Q. Adams, of Massachusetts,.....	1817
Henry Clay, of Kentucky,.....	1822
Martin Van Buren, of New York,.....	1825
Edward Livingston, of Louisiana,.....	1831
Louis McLane, of Delaware,.....	1832
John Forsyth, of Georgia,.....	1834
Daniel Webster, of Massachusetts,.....	1841
Hugh S. Legaré, of South Carolina,.....	1842
Abel P. Upsher, of Virginia,.....	1843
John C. Calhoun, of South Carolina,.....	1844
James Buchanan, of Pennsylvania,.....	1845
John M. Clayton, of Delaware,.....	1849
Daniel Webster, of Massachusetts,.....	1850
William L. Marcy, of New York,.....	1853

## SECRETARIES OF THE TREASURY.

Alexander Hamilton, of New York,.....	1789
Oliver Wolcott, of Connecticut,....	1795
Samuel Dexter, of Massachusetts,.....	1800
Albert Gallatin, of Pennsylvania,.....	1802
George H. Campbell, of Tennessee,.....	1814
Alexander J. Dallas, of Pennsylvania,.....	1814
William H. Crawford, of Georgia,.....	1817
Richard Rush, of Pennsylvania,.....	1825
Samuel D. Ingham, of Pennsylvania,....	1829
Louis McLane, of Delaware,.....	1831
William J. Duane, of Pennsylvania,.....	1833
R. B. Taney, of Maryland,.....	1833
Levi Woodbury, of New Hampshire,.....	1834
Thomas Ewing, of Ohio,.....	1841
Walter Forward, of Pennsylvania,.....	1841
John C. Spencer, of New York,.....	1842
Geo. M. Bibb, of Kentucky,.....	1844
Robert J. Walker, of Mississippi,.....	1845
William M. Meredith, of Pennsylvania,.....	1849
Thomas Corwin, of Ohio,.....	1850
James Guthrie, of Kentucky,.....	1853

## SECRETARIES OF WAR.

Henry Knox, of Massachusetts,.....	1789
Timothy Pickering, of Massachusetts,.....	1795
James McHenry, of Maryland,.....	1796
Samuel Dexter, of Massachusetts,.....	1800
Roger Griswold, of Connecticut,.....	1801
Henry Dearborn, of Massachusetts,.....	1806
William Lusk, of Massachusetts,.....	1809
John Armstrong, of New York,.....	1813
James Monroe, of Virginia,....	1814



William H. Crawford, of Georgia,.....	1815
Isaac Shelby, of Kentucky,.....	1816
John C. Calhoun, of South Carolina,.....	1817
James Barbour, of Virginia,.....	1825
Peter B. Porter, of New York,.....	1828
John Eaton, of Tennessee,.....	1829
Hugh L. White, of Tennessee,.....	1831
Lewis Cass, of Michigan,.....	1831
Joel R. Poinsett, of South Carolina,.....	1837
John Bell, of Tennessee,.....	1841
John C. Spencer, of New York,.....	1841
James M. Porter, of Pennsylvania,.....	1843
William Wilkins, of Pennsylvania,.....	1844
William L. Marcy, of New York,.....	1845
George W. Crawford, of Georgia,.....	1849
Charles M. Conrad, of Louisiana,.....	1850
Jefferson Davis, of Mississippi,.....	1853

## SECRETARIES OF THE NAVY.

*Note.*—This Department was established in 1798—previous to that period it was a branch of the War Department.

George Cabot, of Massachusetts,.....	1798
Benjamin Stoddart, of Maryland,.....	1799
Robert Smith, of Maryland,.....	1802
Jacob Crowninshield, of Massachusetts,.....	1805
Paul Hamilton, of North Carolina,.....	1809
William Jones, of Pennsylvania,.....	1812
Benjamin W. Crowninshield, of Massachusetts,.....	1814
Smith Thompson, of New York,.....	1818
Samuel L. Southland, of New Jersey,.....	1822
John Branch, of North Carolina,.....	1829
Levi Woodbury, of New Hampshire,.....	1831
Mahlon Dickerson, of New Jersey,.....	1834
James K. Paulding, of New York,.....	1836
George E. Badger, of North Carolina,.....	1841
Abel P. Upshur, of Virginia,.....	1841
David Henshaw, of Massachusetts,.....	1843
Thomas W. Gilmer, of Virginia,.....	1844
John Y. Mason, of Virginia,.....	1844
George Bancroft, of Massachusetts,.....	1845
William Ballard Preston, of Virginia,.....	1849
William A. Graham, of North Carolina,.....	1850
James C. Dobbin, of North Carolina,.....	1853

## SECRETARIES OF THE INTERIOR.

Thomas Ewing, of Ohio,.....	1849
Thomas M. T. McKennan, of Pennsylvania,.....	1850
Alexander H. H. Stewart, of Virginia,.....	1850
Robert McClelland, of Michigan,.....	1853

## POSTMASTERS-GENERAL.

Samuel Oswood, of Massachusetts,.....	1756
Timothy Pickering, of Massachusetts,.....	1794
Joseph Habersham, of Georgia,.....	1795
Gideon Granger, of Connecticut,.....	1805
Return J. Meigs, of Ohio,.....	1814
John McLean, of Ohio,.....	1823
William T. Barry, of Kentucky,.....	1825
Thomas Kendall, of Kentucky,.....	1834
John M. Niles, of Connecticut,.....	1844
Francis Granger, of New York,.....	1841
Charles A. Wickliffe, of Kentucky,.....	1841
Cave Johnson, of Tennessee,.....	1845
Jacob Collamer, of Vermont,.....	1849
N. K. Hall, of New York,.....	1850
James Campbell, of Pennsylvania,.....	1853

## ATTORNEYS-GENERAL.

Edmund Randolph, of Virginia,.....	1789
William Bradford, of Pennsylvania,.....	1794
Charles Lee, of Virginia,.....	1795
Levi Lincoln, of Massachusetts,.....	1801
Robert Smith, of Maryland,.....	1805
John Breckenridge, of Kentucky,.....	1806
Cæsar A. Rodney, of Delaware,.....	1807
William Pinkney, of Maryland,.....	1811
Richard Rush, of Pennsylvania,.....	1814
William Wirt, of Virginia,.....	1817
J. McPherson Berrien, of Georgia,.....	1829
Roger B. Taney, of Maryland,.....	1831
Benjamin F. Butler, of New York,.....	1834
Felix Grundy, of Tennessee,.....	1838
Henry D. Gilpin, of Pennsylvania,.....	1840
John J. Crittenden, of Kentucky,.....	1841
Hugh S. Legare, of South Carolina,.....	1841
John Nelson, of Maryland,.....	1843
John Y. Mason, of Virginia,.....	1845
Beverdy Johnson, of Maryland,.....	1849
John J. Crittenden, of Kentucky,.....	1850
Caleb Cushing of Massachusetts,.....	1853

## CHIEF JUSTICES OF THE UNITED STATES

John Jay, of New York,....	1790
William Cushing, of Massachusetts,....	1796
Oliver Ellsworth, of Connecticut,.....	1796
John Jay, of New York,.....	1800
John Marshall, of Virginia,.....	1801
Roger B. Taney, of Maryland,.....	1829

# A CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE

OF

## AMERICAN HISTORY

*From the Discovery in 1492, to the year 1853.*

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- 1492 Columbus discovers the New World.
- 1497 The Cabots discover the Continent of N. America.
- 1512 Juan Ponce de Leon discovers Florida.
- 1539 Ferdinand de Soto begins the conquest of Florida.
- 1541 Soto discovers the Mississippi river.
- 1565 St. Augustine, the oldest town in the United States,  
founded by Pedro Melendez.
- 1584 Raleigh's first expedition sent to Carolina.
- 1607 Jamestown, in Virginia, founded; the earliest perma-  
nent English settlement in North America.
- 1609 Henry Hudson discovers the Hudson river.
- 1613 New York settled by the Dutch.
- 1620 Landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth.
- 1623 Portsmouth and Dover settled by Gorges and Mason.  
Albany settled by the Dutch.
- 1627 The Swedes settle on the Delaware.
- 1631 Windsor, in Connecticut settled.
- 1633 Maryland settled by Lord Baltimore.
- 1634 Banishment of Roger Williams from Massachusetts.
- 1643 Confederation of the New England colonies.
- 1644 Roger Williams obtains a charter for Rhode Island.
- 1655 Stuyvesant, the Dutch governor of New York, con-  
quers New Sweden.
- 1664 New York taken from the Dutch by the English.  
Charles II grants to the Duke of York a patent for  
the country from the Delaware to the Connecticut.
- 1671 Charleston settled.
- 1673 New York re-conquered by the Dutch.
- 1674 New York restored to the English.
- 1675 Commencement of King Philip's war.
- 1676 Bacon's rebellion in Virginia.
- 1681 Penn receives a charter for Pennsylvania.

- 1682 Philadelphia founded.
- 1688 Revolution in England, which gives the sovereignty to William and Mary.
- 1691 Colonel Sloughter appointed governor of New York.
- 1694 Culture of rice introduced into South Carolina.
- 1700 Yale College founded.
- 1701 Penn grants a new charter to Pennsylvania.
- 1704 First Newspaper published in America, at Boston.
- 1729 North and South Carolina separated.
- 1732 George Washington born.
- 1744 War between France and England.
- 1754 Commencement of the Old French War.
- 1755 Defeat of General Braddock.
- 1756 War formally declared between France and England.
- 1759 Quebec taken. General Wolfe killed.
- 1765 Stamp act passed.  
First Continental Congress meets at New York.
- 1766 Stamp act repealed.
- 1773 Tea destroyed in Boston.
- 1774 Continental Congress assembles at Philadelphia.
- 1775 April 19—Battle of Lexington and Concord.  
June 15—Washington appointed commander-in-chief.  
17—Battle of Breed's Hill.  
Dec. 31—Attack on Quebec defeated. Montgomerie killed.
- 1776 March 17—Boston evacuated by the British.  
July 4—Declaration of Independence.  
Aug. 26—Americans defeated on Long Island.  
Oct. 28—Battle of White Plains.  
Nov.—Retreat of Washington through New Jersey.  
Dec. 26—Battle of Trenton.
- 1777 Jan. 2—Battle of Princeton.  
Arrival of Lafayette.  
Aug. 16—Battle of Bennington.  
Sept. 11—Battle of Brandywine.  
18—Congress leaves Philadelphia.  
19—Battle of Stillwater.  
25—Philadelphia occupied by the British.
- Oct. 4—Battle of Germantown.  
12—Surrender of Burgoyne.  
22—Battle of Redbank.
- Nov. 15—Articles of Confederation of the United States ratified.
- Dec. 11—Washington retires to Valley Forge.
- 1778 Treaty between France and the United States.  
June 18—The British evacuate Philadelphia.

- 1778 June 28—Battle of Monmouth.  
 1778 July—Arrival of the French fleet.  
 1779 July 15—Storming of Stony Point.  
     19—Storming of Paulus Hook.  
     Sept.—Arrival of the French fleet at Savannah.  
 1780 May 12—Charleston capitulates.  
     July 12—British defeated at Williamson's Plantation.  
     Aug. 16—Battle of Camden.  
     Sept.—Arnold's treason at West Point.  
     Oct. 7—Battle of King's Mountain.  
 1781 Jan. 17—Battle of Cowpens.  
     March 15—Battle of Guilford  
         8—Battle of Eutaw.  
     Oct. 19—Siege and surrender of Yorktown.  
 1782 Feb. 27—Gen. Conway makes a motion in the Parlia-  
     ment for discontinuing the American war.  
     Nov.—Treaty of Peace between the United States and  
     Great Britain signed.  
 1783 April 19—Cessation of hostilities between the United  
     States and Great Britain proclaimed.  
     Dec. 4—Washington takes leave of the officers of the  
     army.  
     Dec. 23—Washington resigns his commission.  
 1787 May—Convention meets at Philadelphia for framing  
     the Federal Constitution.  
     Sept. 17—Constitution made public.  
 1788 The new Constitution ratified.  
 1789 March 4—Washington's Administration commences.  
 1790 First Census of the United States taken: population  
     3,929,326.  
 1791 The city of Washington laid out.  
     Nov—Defeat of General St. Clair.  
 1794 Aug. 20—General Wayne defeats the Indians on the  
     Miami.  
 1797 John Adams elected President, and Thomas Jefferson  
     Vice-President of the United States.  
     March 4—Commencement of John Adams' Adminis-  
     tration.  
 1799 Dec. 14—Death of General Washington.  
 1800 Second Census of the U. States: population 5,305,485.  
     Nov—Congress first sits at Washington.  
 1801 March 4—Commencement of Jefferson's Administra-  
     tion.  
 1807 Dec—Embargo Law passed.  
     Burr's Conspiracy and Trial.  
 1809 March 4—Commencement of Madison's Administration.

- 1809 Embargo Law repealed.
- 1811 Nov. 7—Battle of Tippecanoe.
- 1812 June 18—War declared against Great Britain by the United States.
- July 12—General Hull invades Canada.
- Aug. 19—Guerriere, British frigate, taken by the Constitution.
- Oct. 17—British ship Frolic captured by American ship Wasp.
- Oct. 25—Macedonian frigate taken by the U. States.
- Dec. 29—Java, British frigate, taken by the Constitution.
- 1813 Jan. 13—General Winchester surprised and defeated.
- March 4—James Madison inaugurated President.
- May 27—Fort George taken by the American troops.
- 29—British defeated in an attempt on Sackett' Harbor.
- June 1—Chesapeake taken by the Shannon.
- Sept. 4—British brig Boxer taken by the United States brig Enterprize.
- 10—British squadron on Lake Erie taken by the Americans.
- Oct. 5—British defeated by General Harrison.
- 1814 Feb. 23—Mission to Gottenburg.
- Mar. 20—Frigate Essex taken by two British vessels.
- April 21—United States' ship Frolic taken.
- July 6—Battle of Chippewa.
- 25—Battle of Bridgewater.
- Aug. 15—Battle of Fort Erie.
- 24—Battle of Bladensburg, Washington taken, the Capitol and other public buildings burned by the British.
- Sept. 11—British squadron on Lake Champlain captured by the American squadron under Commodore McDonough. Defeat of the British at Plattsburg.
- 24—Treaty of Peace signed at Ghent.
- 1815 Jan. 8—Signal defeat of the British, by Gen. Jackson.
- Feb. 17—Treaty of peace ratified.
- Feb. 20—War declared against the Algerines.
- May—Commodore Decatur sails to Algiers.
- June 18—An Algerine frigate of 44 guns, captured by the Guerriere.
- Aug.—Treaty of peace with the Dey of Algiers.
- 1816 April—The National Bank established by Congress with a capital of thirty-five millions.

- 1817 March 4—James Monroe inaugurated President.
- 1818 War with the Seminole Indians commenced.  
 April—The Seminoles defeated by Gen. Jackson,  
 May 28—General Jackson takes Pensacola.  
 Nov.—Pensacola restored to the Spaniards.
- 1820 Population of the United States, 9,625,734.  
 American Colonization Society sent out their first  
 colonists to Liberia.
- 1824 The Marquis de Lafayette visited the United States
- 1825 March 4—John Quincy Adams inaugurated.
- 1826 July 4—The Ex-Presidents John Adams and Thos.  
 Jefferson died.
- 1829 March 4—Andrew Jackson inaugurated President.
- 1830 Population of the United States, 12,866,020.
- 1832 The United States visited with the cholera.
- 1833 Andrew Jackson commences his second term.
- 1837 Michigan admitted into the Union.  
 March 4—Van Buren inaugurated.  
 Dec. 31—Gen. Clinch's battle of the Withlacoochee
- 1838 Canadians revolt, and are aided by the Americans.
- 1841 March 4—Wm. H. Harrison inaugurated.  
 April 4—Death of President Harrison.
- 1845 March 4—James K. Polk inaugurated.  
 June 8—General Jackson dies.  
 Dec. 29—Texas admitted into the Union.
- 1846 May 3—Hostilities commenced between Mexico  
 and the United States. Battle of Palo Alto.
- 1847 Feb. 23—Battle of Buena Vista.  
 March 26—Vera Cruz surrenders to General Scott.  
 Sept. 15—The city of Mexico surrenders.
- 1848 John Q. Adams dies in the House of Congress.  
 Feb. 2—A treaty of peace concluded at Guada-  
 loupe Hidalgo, between the U. States and Mexico
- 1849 March 4—General Zachary Taylor inaugurated.  
 June 15—Ex-President Polk died.
- 1850 March 31—Death of John C. Calhoun.  
 July 9—Death of President Zachary Taylor.  
 Millard Fillmore becomes President.  
 California admitted into the Union.  
 Population of the United States, 23,267,498.
- 1853 Franklin Pierce inaugurated.  
 William R. King, Vice-President, dies.

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